Bengaluru Tuesday, May 5, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 124 ₹7

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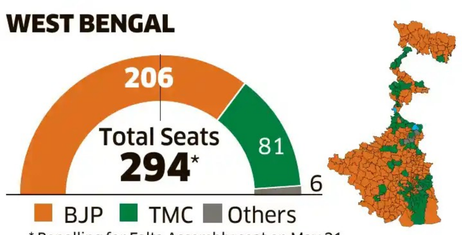
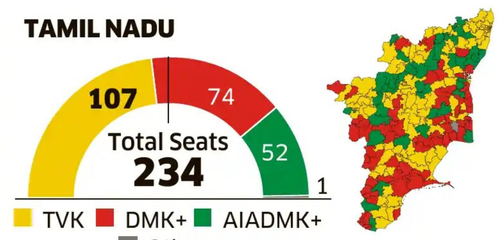


* Repolling for Falta Assembly seat on May 21

TAMIL NADU



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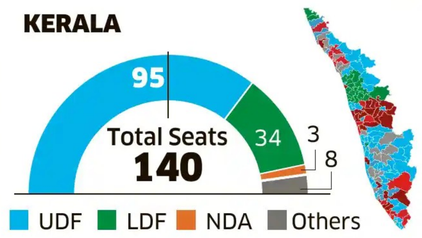

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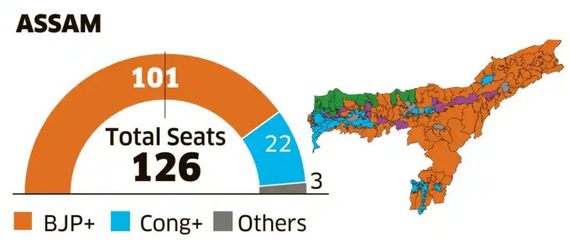

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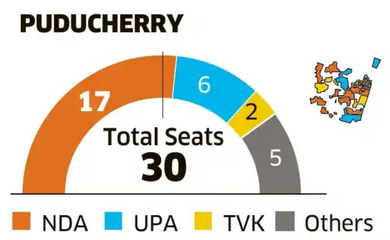


BJP breaches Bengal; TN gets a Jana Nayagan

CLEAR VERDICT : TMC reign ends, Vijay makes historic debut; Left exits Kerala; NDA retains Assam, Puducherry

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Winds of change from Cape Comorin to Kolkata on Monday swept aside three entrenched Opposition satraps — Pinarayi Vijayan, M K Stalin and Mamata Banerjee — in their respective bastions.

A new star rose on Tamil Nadu's political horizon as actor-turned-politician Vijay, in a stunning electoral debut, shattered the decades-old DMK–AIADMK duopoly and redrew the state's political map.

> With victory in West Bengal, from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar, it is nothing but the lotus in full bloom.
>
> **Narendra Modi**
> Prime Minister

Of the five contests, only NDA incumbents—Himanta Biswa Sarma in Assam and N Rangaswamy in Puducherry—managed to retain power.

The biggest draw of the elections came from West Bengal, a Left pocketborough for 33 years until 2011, now turning saffron. Overcoming the demographic challenge of a nearly 27% minority population, the BJP surged from just three seats and 10% vote share in 2016 to a commanding two-thirds majority, crossing the 200-seat mark.

The party's meticulously planned campaign—tapping into middle-class discontent and 15 years of anti-incumbency against the Trinamool Congress — delivered a historic mandate. Mamata Banerjee's defence of her stronghold crumbled in the face of a determined saffron surge.

These highlights merely capture the scale of the churn unleashed in elections to four state Assemblies and one Union Territory, the votes for which were counted on Monday.

The verdict's deeper implications, wrapped in layers, could reshape national politics, with ripple effects likely to be felt well ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal together, send 101 MPs to the Lok Sabha, of which 88 are currently with the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

In Kerala, the Congress-led UDF registered a decisive victory, ending the Left Front rule in any Indian state for the first time in nearly six decades offering the Congress a succour after a string of Assembly defeats in the last two years.

Neighbouring Tamil Nadu, meanwhile, delivered a political thriller that could trigger a wider realignment within both the NDA and I.N.D.I.A blocs.

▸ BJP breaches, Page 9

West Bengal

BJP supporters celebrate the party's sweep in the West Bengal Assembly election, in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

Tamil Nadu

TVK supporters cheer as the party chief Vijay wins the Tamil Nadu elections on Monday. PTI

Hindutva wave, discontent drown TMC

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The lotus has bloomed in what was the land of twin flowers. The BJP has routed the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, where, in the words of its general secretary, B L Santhosh, a victory was not only political but also "a civilisational priority".

The saffron party rode to power on Hindutva and an anti-incumbency wave against the TMC, which had been in power for 15 years.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lost her home constituency, Bhabanipur, to Suvendu Adhikari, who had quit the TMC to join the BJP in 2020, by a margin of 15,105 votes.

The Hindutva was the core poll plank of the BJP, which projected illegal migration of Muslims from Bangladesh to India, and the alleged role of the TMC government in helping the 'ghuspetiyas' (infiltrators) settle in West Bengal, as an existential threat – not only to the Hindus but also to national security.

The BJP also succeeded in cashing in on public discontent with the TMC, on issues such as the lack of initiatives to revive industries and the consequent rise in unemployment, recruitment scams, crimes against women, irregularities in the public healthcare, etc.

The BJP mounted a concerted, high-intensity campaign, with PM Narendra Modi addressing as many as 19 rallies in 22 days and Amit Shah overseeing the party's run-up to the polls.

The TMC, meanwhile, cited frequent raids by the ED and the Income Tax department against its candidates, as well as the I-PAC, the political consultancy firm hired by it, to buttress its allegation that the Union government misused the central agencies to win West Bengal.

Mamata's party also accused the Election Commission of being biased and of deleting lakhs of voters – through the SIR of the electoral rolls – only to help the BJP.

▸ Hindutva wave, Page 8

How Vijay ended six decades of Dravidian duopoly

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Chandrasekaran Joseph Vijay on Monday broke the Dravidian duopoly of the DMK and the AIADMK in style by leading his two-year-old Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) to an emphatic victory in the April 23 polls to elect Tamil Nadu's 17th Assembly.

By winning or leading in 107 of the 234 seats — just 11 short of the magic number of 118 — Vijay's stupendous performance mirrors the historic 1967 elections when the then-fledgling DMK overthrew the Congress government, riding high on the anti-Hindi agitation.

Contesting alone, Vijay secured an impressive 35% of the polled votes, surpassing the record created by the legendary M G Ramachandran, who scored about 33.5% in his first election with two allies in 1977 after launching the AIADMK in a four-cornered fight.

The C N Annadurai-led DMK secured 40.69% of the popular vote in the 1967 elections, fighting with five alliance partners. The DMK won 144 seats in 1967, while the AIADMK won 137 in 1977.

On this scale, Vijay's rise to the chief minister's chair from the tinsel town is unprecedented.

His ascent only parallels that of Telugu matinee idol N T Rama Rao, who stormed to power in Andhra Pradesh within eight months of launching the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

▸ Vijay, Page 8

Assam

Artistes perform after the BJP retains power in Assam on Monday. PTI

Kerala

Congress workers take out a victory march in Kerala on Monday. PTI

BIG LOSERS

Mamata loses by 15k votes

BJP's Suvendu Adhikari defeated West Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur seat by 15,105 votes.

Ex-DMK MLA defeats Stalin

TN CM M K Stalin was defeated in his sitting seat Kolathur by TVK candidate and former DMK MLA V S Babu by a margin of 8,795 votes.

KPCC chief defeats Shailaja

Former Kerala health minister K K Shailaja (CPM) was defeated by KPCC president Sunny Joseph in Peravoor (Kannur) by a margin of 14,453 votes.

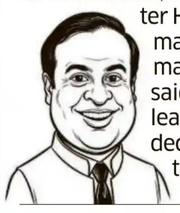
Gaurav Gogoi loses in Jorhat

Assam Congress president and sitting MP Gaurav Gogoi lost to BJP's Hitendranath Goswami by 23,182 votes in the Jorhat seat.

BATTLE FOR TOP POST

Himanta Sarma says leadership will take call

After the BJP won a third straight term in Assam, incumbent Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's stature has grown many fold. He, however, said the party's central leadership will take the decision on who will be the next CM.

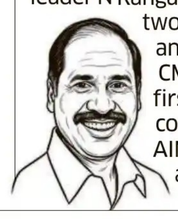


Satheesan's chances brighten after UDF win

Congress leader V D Satheesan is likely be the first choice for the CM post as he successfully led the UDF towards an emphatic victory in Kerala. He said he was not going to stake any claims as the party has a procedure to finalise the CM.

Rangasamy likely to keep top job

Puducherry Chief Minister and AINRC leader N Rangasamy won from the two seats he contested and is likely to keep the CM chair. This is not the first time that Rangasamy contested from two seats. AINRC is part of the NDA alliance.



RELIEF FOR CM

Cong wins state bypolls, survives SDPI scare

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The ruling Congress retained both Bagalkot and Davangere South Assembly seats in the April 9 bypolls giving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah a breather amid a power transfer fiasco. But the party also got a reality check after it denied a ticket to a Muslim candidate in Davangere South.

The Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) dented Congress's traditional Muslim vote, narrowing the party's victory margin with Afsar Kodlipete grabbing 18,975 votes.

Congress's Samarth Mallikarjun, grandson of the late Shamanur Shivashankarappa, managed to retain the seat after a close fight with BJP's Srinivas T Dasakariyappa, but by just 5,708 votes — a steep fall from the 27,888-vote margin the party posted in 2023.

Samarth Mallikarjun

Umesh Meti

The Muslim community and leaders resented Congress giving a ticket to the Shamanur family, which already has a minister (S S Mallikarjun) and an MP (Prabha Mallikarjun). Soon after polling, the Congress expelled MLC Abdul Jabbar and removed MLC Nasir Ahmed as the CM's political secretary citing "anti-party" activities.

Meanwhile, the BJP had hoped to cash in on Muslim disgruntlement and to breach the 'Ahinda' vote by fielding an ST leader.

▸ Bypolls, Page 8

Edit Page 6
Winds of change: Rising hero, fallen bastions

Political Theatre
P13 Pishi-Bhaipo model, graft & anger undo Didi | P15 How AIADMK lost the plot and Oppn space | P16 BJP scores hat-trick on 'anti-infiltrator' stand

Drone attack targets UAE oil zone; Iran missiles intercepted

DUBAI, REUTERS: Fire broke out at a major UAE oil industry zone on Monday after a drone attack originating from Iran, authorities said, as the Gulf state's military separately intercepted three Iranian missiles over its waters and a fourth crashed into the sea.

Civil defence teams were deployed immediately to contain the blaze at the Fujairah Oil Industry Zone, the Fujairah Media Office said in a statement, adding that three Indian citizens were moderately injured in the attack and taken to hospital.

The UAE defence ministry said on X that its forces had intercepted three missiles, with a fourth falling into the sea.

The drone attacks shattered a period of relative calm in the UAE since a ceasefire between Washington and Tehran took effect on April 8, pausing more than two months of fighting.

UAE authorities on Monday issued mobile phone alerts in Dubai and Abu Dhabi warning of the possibility of missile attacks.

SC flags rise in acid attacks, asks Centre to enhance punishment

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed serious concern over the rising number of acid attacks, describing them as "barbaric" and "brutal", and suggested that the Centre consider stricter punishments, including shifting the burden of proof onto the accused.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi observed that the existing punishment was not proving to be a deterrent, noting an "alarming increase" in such cases since 2013.

"Don't you think that the punishment should have been harsher?" the bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by acid attack survivor, Shaheen Malik.

The court noted that even after the insertion of Section 326B in the IPC in 2013, which provided for a minimum of five and a maximum of seven years of imprisonment, there had been no deterrent effect on criminals. Within a period of 10 years, there had been an "alarming increase" in the number and brutality of acid-attacks, it said.

The plea, which sought to categorise acid attack victims as persons with disabilities to enable them to access welfare schemes, was argued by advocate Mukul Rohatgi. Under the current criminal jurisprudence, the onus to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt lies on the prosecution.

▸ Acid attacks, Page 8

Quickly

Manufacturing activities sluggish

India's manufacturing activities remained sluggish for the second consecutive month in April, dragged by muted demands and elevated input costs due to West Asia conflict, according to an industry survey report released by S&P Global on Monday. PMI for manufacturing witnessed mild recovery rising to 54.7 in April from a four-year low of 53.9 recorded in the previous month.

Details on Page 18

April LPG consumption dips by 16%

Cooking gas consumption dipped by over 16% in April as supply disruptions due to the West Asia conflict hit availability for commercial users and households.

Details on Page 18

SC stays HC order in land case

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Karnataka High Court's order which had directed for a CBI probe into the alleged criminal conspiracy entered into by state government officials and certain private individuals into acquisition of over 50 acres of land proposed in Bengaluru in early 2000 for use of a non-existent entity, Lakeview Tourism Corporation.

Details on Page 5

Power failure shuts Cubbon Park Metro station for 4 hours

Commuters use torchlights on phones to move around

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Cubbon Park Metro station on the Purple Line was temporarily shut on Monday morning after a power failure disrupted services, forcing trains to skip the station and leaving commuters to navigate the premises using mobile phone torches.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited said in a public advisory that trains would not stop at Cubbon Park until power was restored, and asked passengers to plan their journeys accordingly. The station, which sees heavy footfall through the day, is among the busier stops on the line.

Passengers said the station was pitch dark when the disruption occurred, with only the lights from passing trains offering some visibility. Commuters also used torchlights on their phones to move around the platform and access other areas.

The Cubbon Park metro station was shut from 7 am to 11 am on Monday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

The disruption triggered frustration among passengers, many of whom questioned the reliability of Metro services at a key station. Some on social media criticised the episode as a sign of poor maintenance.

Normal operations resumed at 11 am, and the station was reopened to the public.

Cubbon Park is one of the most important Metro stations in the city centre, serving office-goers and people visiting Vidhana Soudha, MG Road, Cubbon Park and the Chinnaswamy Stadium area.

B L Yashavanth Chavan, Chief Public Relations Officer, BMRCL, said the disruption lasted from 7 am to 11 am and the station was shut to ensure passenger safety.

"BMRCL technical teams promptly attended to the issue, which was caused by a control circuit fault. It required careful isolation and verification to avoid further disruptions or equipment damage before the fault could be conclusively identified and rectified. The issue was successfully resolved and power supply restored by around 11 am," he stated.

According to Chavan, keeping the underground station operational without adequate lighting would have posed safety risks. He clarified that the 750V DC third rail system remained unaffected, ensuring smooth train movement through the station.

Auto driver chases car, assaults woman and friend

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a suspected road rage incident, a 22-year-old woman and her friend were allegedly assaulted by an auto-rickshaw driver and his associates in HSR Layout in southeast Bengaluru on Saturday night.

The woman, a native of Uttarakhand, was travelling from Indiranagar towards Haralur in a car with her male friend when their vehicle allegedly brushed against the auto-rickshaw at around 10 pm.

The auto driver asked them to stop. However, as the signal turned green on 14th Main Road, the car driver continued moving. Enraged, the auto driver allegedly chased the car and smashed its rear windshield with a stone.

Panicked, the victims stopped the car near a petrol pump on the same road. The auto driver, along with four unidentified persons, allegedly assaulted the woman's friend, kicking him and causing injuries to his hands, legs and face. When she intervened, she too was allegedly manhandled.

Dashcam evidence

The entire incident was captured on the car's dashboard camera. Based on a complaint, HSR Layout police have registered a case against the auto driver and four unidentified persons. "All are still at large, but we have leads on them," police said.

Another case

The incident comes close on the heels of another road rage case reported on Friday night near Bettadasanapura in Electronics City, where a couple from West Bengal was allegedly assaulted by a group of men for objecting to reckless driving.

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಮಸ್ತ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ, ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧೀನ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ದಾಸಾನುಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿಯ ಕರೆಕಲ್ ಹಾಳ್ಯದ ವಾಸಿ ಹಾಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 72 ವರ್ಷದ ವಾಸಿ, ಗಂಗಾರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರು ಈ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆಯ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ತಾನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 12.10.2009 ರಂದು ಜಾರಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಯಾರ್ಜಿತವಾಗಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಖಾತೆ ಪಹಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ವ್ಯಾಜ್ಯಾ ಮತ್ತು ಋಣ ಭಾರ ರಹಿತವಾಗಿ ಅನುಭವಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಮ್ಮ ಹಾಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು ಈ ಕೆಳಕ್ಕೆ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ನೀಡಿರುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳು ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಆಸಕ್ತರಾಗಿದ್ದು ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರರ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಹಕ್ಕು ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಇಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಖಾತರಿ ಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಮಾಲೀಕರ ವಾರಸುದಾರರು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿ ಹಕ್ಕು ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಜಾಹೀರಾತುದಾರರಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಇಂದಿನ 15 ದಿವಸಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಹವಾಲು ಬರದಿದ್ದ ಪಕ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಆಸ್ತಿಯೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಜಾಹೀರಾತುದಾರರು ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಆಹವಾಲು ದಾರರು ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ತಮಗೆ ಇರಬಹುದಾದ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು ಎಂದು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ.

ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ವಿವರ

ತುಮಕೂರು ತಾಲೂಕು ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ ಮರಳೇನಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್ 51/1a ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕರಾಬು ರಹಿತ ಒಂದು ಎಕರೆ ಮೂವತ್ತೆಂಟು ಗುಂಟೆ (01-38) ಜಮೀನಿಗೆ ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ

ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ:– ಚಿಕ್ಕಮ್ಮನವರ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್ 51/1 ಬಿ ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಮೀನು,

ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ:– ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ನಾಲೆ ಜಮೀನು,

ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ:– ಗವಿ ರಂಗಯ್ಯನವರ ಜಮೀನು

ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ:– ನರಸಿಂಹಯ್ಯನವರ ಜಮೀನು.

ಖಾತೆದಾರರು: ಗಂಗಾರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಬಿನ್ ರಾಮಯ್ಯ

ಜಾಹೀರಾತುದಾರರು: ಪಾವನ ಬಿನ್ ಎಂ.ವಿ.ಬಿ.ಚೌದರಿ, ಮನೆ ನಂಬರ್ #8, ನಾರಾಯಣಪ್ಪ ಲೇಔಟ್, ನಾಗಾರ್ಜುನ ಪಿಯು ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಬಳಿ, ರಾಮಗೊಂಡನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಯಲಹಂಕ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-560064

ಫೋನ್:– 7349311003, 7892389065

ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: pavanametla93@gmail.com

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 5–5–2026 ಸ್ಥಳ : ತುಮಕೂರು

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Tender Notice No. B-SG-Proj-Kavach-Survey Dated : 16-04-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Aerial videography /LiDAR survey in connection with the work of "Provision of Kavach with communication backbone of UHF on balance routes over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railways - 456 Km"	Rs. 2,18,96,304.32

Last date for submission of bids above: Tender **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 20-05-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Projects / Bengaluru

PUB/51/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

EASTERN RAILWAY

The following E-tender is invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General)/Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Remote Control Building, Eastern Railway, Kolkata-700 014 in connection with the following works: **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender No.: ELEG-OT-1317-2026-27, Date: 28.04.2026. Particulars of the work:** Corrective electrical maintenance contract and overhauling etc. of 2x3.5 MLD ETP of Circular Railway near Kolkata station for 03 (three) years. **Tender value**: ₹ 1,47,20,790.87. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 2,94,400. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender No.: ELEG-OT-1318-2026-27, Date: 28.04.2026. Particulars of the work:** Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of 08 nos. HVLS Fan at Sealdah station under jurisdiction of SSE/E(G)/IC/Sealdah-I for three (03) years. **Tender value**: ₹ 13,91,186. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 27,800. **Completion period:** 36 months (for Sl.No. 1 & 2). **Tender Publication Date on IREPS:** 28.04.2026 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2). **Bidding Start Date:** 04.05.2026 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2). **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 18.05.2026 at 14.00 hrs. (for Sl.No. 1 & 2). Details of tender notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website: **www.ireps.gov.in**.(SDAH-24/2026-27)

Tender Notices are also available at website: **www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in**

Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

JHARIA REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DHANBAD

e-Procurement Notice

Tender Reference No: JRDA/CIVIL/26-27/02/34 **Date:** 29.04.2026

1.	Name of Work	Construction of 2 Nos. of Community Hall at Belgaria Dhanbad
2.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 3,56,98,227.00
3.	EMD	Rs. 3,57,000.00
4.	Tender Document Cost	Rs. 10,000.00
5.	Time of Completion	08 months
6.	Date/Time from which bid is available for online bidding	05.05.2026 at 03:00 PM
7.	Last Date/Time for on-line submission of bids	26.05.2026 at 05:00 PM
8.	Date and Time of Bid Opening	28.05.2026 at 11:30 AM
9.	Name and Address of Officer inviting tender	Head of Department (Civil), JRDA, Dhanbad Hatia More, Golf Ground Road, Hirapur, Dhanbad - 826001 Jharkhand, India Email: infojrda.dhn@gmail.com

Note : 1. Only e-tenders will be accepted.
2. Further details can be seen on website – https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Head of Department (Civil), JRDA, Dhanbad

PR 378973 Rural Development (26-27)_D

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO), LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC) CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION,

80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru. Ph No: 080-25037203/080-25037214.

Date: 04.05.2026

e-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Item rate tenders are invited for the following work.

Name of work and NIT No. & Date	**Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for Cranes at LPSC campus, Tumakuru NIT No. : LPSC(B)/CMD/03/3019/ MECH/MI/004/2026-27 Date: 04.05.2026**
Estimated Amount	**₹ 29.03 Lakhs**
Period of completion	**24 months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From: 18:30 Hrs on 04.05.2026 to 14.05.2026 till 23:59 Hrs.**
Bid Clarification	**From: 20.00 Hrs on 04.05.2026 to 15.05.2026 till 10.00 Hrs.**
Last date and time to reply to Bid clarifications	**18.05.2026 up to 17.00 Hrs.**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**19.05.2026 up to 11.00 Hrs.**
Due date and time of opending of tenders.	**19.05.2026 up to 11.30 Hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit	**₹ 58,060/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD, LPSC (B)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Engineer (CON)/II, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following works. Following tenders have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenders will be closed **at 12.00 hrs.** on due date. **Sl.No.**-1. **e-Tender Notice No.: 4626-GRC-CE-C-II-10-2026, Date: 30.04.2026. Brief Description of work:** Execution of work for Yard remodeling works at Bero, Muradi, Madhukunda & Damodar in connection with Chandil-Anara-Burnpur 3rd line Project under the jurisdiction of Dy CE/Con/ Adra. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 72.01 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,44,02,100. **Sl.No.**-2. **e-Tender Notice No.: 4635-GRC-CE-C-II-18-2026, Date: 30.04.2026. Brief Description of work:** Execution of work for Yard remodeling works at Chawapall, Kushtaur, Bagalia, Anara, Garh Dhrubeswar & Joychandi Pahar in connection with Chandil-Anara-Burnpur 3rd line Project under the jurisdiction of Dy CE/Con/Adra. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 81.22 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,62,44,300. **Completion Period:** 30 months (for Sl.No. 1 & 2). **Closing Date:** 29.05.2026 (for Sl.No. 1 & 2). Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for these items will be accepted. **N.B.**: Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-110)**

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela (Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221

Open E-Tender Notice No.:- RWP/STORES/WORKS/ADVT/26-27/01, Dated : 29.04.2026. Tender No.S_RWP_TPT_RAIL_2025-26_02B Due on 29.05.2026

"Principal Chief Materials Manager /Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites **online "e-Open Tender"** through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**, for transportation of Scrap Rail. **1. Name of work with its location, Qty and completion period :** Transportation of Scrap Cut Rails. The above work involves (i) Collection of Scrap Rails at Various Railway Units/Locations (ii) Cutting of scrap Rails to a length size measuring up to 3 (three) Meters (iii) Loading of the Scrap cut Rail in to the vehicle (iv) Transportation of scrap cut Rail from various locations of Indian Railway to Rail Wheel Plant Bela, Saran, Bihar-841221 under distance slab 501-1000KM (taking average lead distance 750KM). Unloading at destination shall be done by Railway. Qty. 3432000 MT-KM Completion period: 12 months from the date of issuance of LOA., **2. Approx. cost of the work :** Rs. 1,66,79,520.00, **3. Earnest Money to be Deposited :** Rs. 3,33,600/-, **Tender Closing date and time :** 29.05.2026 up to 14:15 Hrs. **5.** Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in.**

The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (**www.ireps.gov.in**) for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

PCMM, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela

RWP/CPRO/Advt./2026-27/10

THE DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE CENTRAL BANK LTD., BIDAR

Near Basaveshwar Chowk, BIDAR-585 401 (Karnataka)

Ref No:DCC/EST/RECT/2026-27/ **Date: 04/05/2026**

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

The Bidar District Central Co-operative Bank (Bidar DCC Bank Ltd., Bidar) invites applications from eligible candidates for the post of General Manager on a contract basis.

Interested candidates may submit their applications through E-mail / Post/Direct submission.

The detailed notification and application format can be downloaded from the Bank's website: www.bidardccbank.com

Duly filled applications should be submitted on or before **19.05.2026 by 5:30 PM.**

For further information, candidates may contact the undersigned.

Contact Details: Phone: 08482-226402/227261
Email: dccbank_bdr@yahoo.co.in, Mobile: 9448656638

Sd/- **Chief Executive Officer Bidar**
District Central Co-operative
Bank Chiek Ltd., Bidar

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/Tr(Op)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/2026-27/1055-57 **Dated: 02.05.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids against Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/CEE/Tr(o)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/ 2025-26/Unskilled Man Power Service-03 dt: 30.04.2026 for providing 30 No's of Man power services (unskilled labour) on contract basis for maintenance of Transmission lines Pertaining to various TLM sub-divisions coming under Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL Tumakuru.

The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink KPP Portal or https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in on or after 11.05.2026 and other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy)

Transmission (Operation) Zone, KPTCL, Prasana Bhavana, 1st Floor, 66/11kV Sub-station Premises, Tumakuru-03

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited

(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)

(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders through KPP Portal from eligible Bidders against Enquiry No.: **BESCOM/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT1078** for Supply, installation, configuration, commissioning and maintenance of One No. of Server as per the required specification along with software license for Windows Operating system and MS SQL database for a period of three years. Tender documents available from: **05.05.2026.** Date & Venue of Pre-Bid meeting: **12.05.2026, 11:30 AM at Chamber of GM-IT, BESCOM, 5th Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate Office, K. R Circle, Bengaluru.** Last date of Receiving Queries/ Clarification: **Queries if any may be sent to gmit@bescom.co.in on or before 12.05.2026, 05:00 PM.** Last Date of Submission of bids: **20.05.2026, 4:00 PM.**

The tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further Bidders can take assistance of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk with Contact Numbers: **+91-80460 10000, +91-8068948777** or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

Sd/- General Manager (IT), BESCOM, 5th Floor, Belaku Bhavan, Corporate Office, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of The Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
East-3	BWSSB/EE(East)-3/PB/51/2026-27 Date: 02.05.2026 (2nd Call)	**Rs. 30,75,890/-** / **Rs.76,900/-**	12.05.2026 upto 4.00 PM	13.05.2026 after 5.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-3)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/487/NR/2026-27

Government of Madhya Pradesh

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief Water Resources Department,

Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsi Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)

Email Id: ce.tender.wrdmp@gmail.com Tel: 0755-2767635 Fax: 0755-2552406

N.I.T. No. 1215/2026-27 /E-in-C/e-tendering Bhopal, Dated 28.04.2026

Bids for following works are invited on website **https://www.mptenders.gov.in** Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is **22.05.2026 17:30 hrs.** Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Work	District	Amount (Lakhs)
1	2026_WRD_502866	Annual Repair work of Mola Medium Project, Keshopur tank, Sajanmau tank, Umariya tank and Madi Narkhedi weir.	Ashoknagar	24.30
2	2026_WRD_502867	Annual Repair work of Dhaura Tank, Jamakhedi Tank, Amahi Tank, Barkheda Chajju Dam & Waste weir.	Ashoknagar	21.15
3	2026_WRD_502868	Providing and Erection of New HT Line including installation of Metering Equipment (From Kadhan Dam to pump House 6A Atatila) for Pump House 06A of Banda Irrigation Project, complete work with material and Labour.	Sagar	421.86
4	2026_WRD_502869	External Electrification work with shifting of line including internal Electrification with providing & Fixing of Required Elements of New Building of Thana Campus of Bahrol affected by Submergence of Banda Irrigation Project, complete work with material and Labour.	Sagar	83.48
5	2026_WRD_502870	Collection, Recording and Analyzing of Data from Raingauge /Rivergauge stations of Gandhisagar Dam Catchment area for year 2026 (Data taken, Given manually and Computerzing both)	Mandsour	31.59
6	2026_WRD_502872	Providing armed Security guard at security check post of Gandhisagar Dam Project. (for 12 Months)	Mandsour	53.15
7	2026_WRD_502874	Providing Labour for maintenance work of Gandhisagar Dam and office work (for12 Months)	Mandsour	46.27
8	2026_WRD_502875	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Dam Approach cum Banda-Bandri Diversion Road under Banda Irrigation Project, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Sagar	835.29
9	2026_WRD_502876	Construction of Protection wall of Ratankhedi Barrage.	Indore	58.77
10	2026_WRD_502877	Dam Rehabilitation and improvement Project (Phasell) of Matiyari Medium Project block Bichhiya.	Mandla	459.23
11	2026_WRD_502878	Hiring of Inspection Vehicle on Monthly rental Basis for Mohanpura Project under Mohanpura Kundalia Project Management Unit Rajgarh.	Rajgarh	42.70
12	2026_WRD_502881	Hiring of Inspection Vehicle on Monthly rental Basis for Kundalia Project under office of the Project Director Mohanpura Kundalia Project Management Unit Rajgarh.	Rajgarh	21.10
13	2026_WRD_502882	Providing and installation with Testing of DG sets including Elevator with Lighting Arrangements at Banda Irrigation Project, complete work with material and Labour.	Sagar	101.52
14	2026_WRD_502884	Providing and Erection of 11 KV Line (Nimon to banda Dam) including additional bay (at Substation Nimon) with required elements for Banda Irrigation Project, complete work with material and Labour.	Sagar	187.47
15	2026_WRD_502885	Repair work of Kalora tank, Bandha tank and Khandela tank.	Guna	81.39
16	2026_WRD_502887	Repair work of Renjhai tank, Silawati tank and Jhamjhera tank.	Guna	63.56
17	2026_WRD_502888	Repair work of Gopalpura tank, Mohari tank and Beelakhedi tank.	Guna	63.56
18	2026_WRD_502889	Special Repair work for Sluice of Karchul Tank Scheme.	Shahdol	33.26
19	2026_WRD_502959	Special Repair work of Radial gates with Head Gates including painting of gates with other equipments of Singhpur Barrage.	Sagar	98.77
20	2026_WRD_502960	Dismantling of Houses and Structures of villages affected by RL 457m in Nala closure work under Banda Irrigation Project.	Sagar	60.87
21	2026_WRD_502962	Repair work of flush bar and Chutefall of Khejadia Tank.	Shajapur	49.89
22	2026_WRD_502964	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Kun weir, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Dhar	456.24
23	2026_WRD_502965	11 KV & DTR's Shifting work at Kanera Lifiting Irrigation Project.	Gwalior	26.66
24	2026_WRD_502966	Balance work of Choral and Narkheri Dam under DRIP-II.	Indore	192.63

G-12419/26 **Sd/- Chief Engineer (Procurement**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)

ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC) CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP

Plot No.12 &13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58. Fax: 080-28094180. Ph: 080-28094196, 4184, 4541,4542

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE. E-Tender

1. On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tenders** are invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works

SL. No.	NIT No.	ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ETN-15/2026-27 Dated: 04.05.2026	ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ETN-16/2026-27 Dated: 04.05.2026	ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ETN-19/2026-27 Dated: 04.05.2026	ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ETN-20/2026-27 Dated: 04.05.2026
1	Name of Work	**Annual Service Contract for Operation and Maintenance of Civil & PH Systems for DOS Housing Colony at RPC Layout, Bengaluru.**	**Annual Service Contract for Operation and Maintenance of Civil & PH Systems for DOS Housing Colony, CISF Quarters and barracks at Jalahalli, Bengaluru.**	**Proposed canopy at the entrance of MOX campus ISTRAC, Bengaluru (Civil works)**	**Refurbishment of Stores section at SCC campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru (Civil Interior works)**
2	Estimated cost put to tender	**Rs. 32.62 Lakhs**	**Rs. 128.35 Lakhs**	**Rs. 24.97 Lakhs**	**Rs. 19.38 Lakhs**
3	Tender Document details	**E-Tender**	**E-Tender**	**E-Tender**	**E-Tender**
4	Period of Completion.	**12 (Twelve) months (Department reserves the rights to extend the contract for a further period of 24 months)**	**12 (Twelve) months (Department reserves the rights to extend the contract for a further period of 24 months)**	**02 (Two) months**	**05 (Five) months**
5	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 14.30 hrs. on 05.05.2026 to 16:30 hrs. on 26.05.2026**		**From 14.30 hrs. on 05.05.2026 to 16:30 hrs. on 19.05.2026**	
6	Bid clarification	**From 15.30 hrs. on 05.05.2026 to 16:30 hrs. on 28.05.2026**		**From 15.30 hrs. on 05.05.2026 to 16:30 hrs. on 20.05.2026**	
7	Last date of reply to Bid clarification	**Upto 16:30 hrs. on 29.05.2026**		**Upto 16:30 hrs. on 21.05.2026**	
8	Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**Upto 14:30 hrs. on 01.06.2026**		**Upto 14:30 hrs. on 22.05.2026**	
9	Due date and time of opening of tenders	**11:30 hrs. onwards 02.06.2026**		**11:30 hrs. onwards 25.05.2026**	
10	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 65,240/-**	**Rs. 2,56,700/-**	**Rs. 49,940/-**	**Rs. 38,760/-**

2. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and the tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

Ride-hailing cabs turn scarce at KIA after heavy rain

BENGALURU, DHNS: Passengers at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) faced a shortage of ride-hailing cabs on Sunday evening, with many struggling to book taxis after heavy rain lashed the city and disrupted services.

Airport sources said the shortage was likely linked to the downpour, which may have prompted several drivers to log off or avoid the airport route amid fears of waterlogging and worsening traffic congestion in the city. The disruption left flyers waiting longer than usual at pick-up points, with some forced to keep refreshing their ride-hailing apps.

"I kept trying to book an Ola and an Uber for quite some time, but nothing was showing up. By the time a cab appeared, the wait had already become stressful," said a passenger arriving at KIA.

Passengers rely heavily on ride-hailing cabs for late-evening and night travel, mainly because of their affordability. With city roads clogged and some stretches affected by waterlogging, drivers appeared reluctant to take airport trips, sources said.

Frequent flyers said the problem exposed a gap in last-mile transport at the airport during bad weather. The airport has not issued any advisory on the disruption, but passengers continued to report limited cab availability well into the evening.

Old Airport Rd to get 3rd underpass; Marathahalli congestion still a worry

Work will be taken up in three phases, say engineers

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Old Airport Road, which connects the central business district (CBD) and the tech corridor, is all set to get a third grade separator. Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) has taken up the construction of a bi-directional underpass at Wind Tunnel Road in Murgeshpalya, which was originally part of the signal-free corridor project conceived almost a decade ago.

While the project could allow commuters to move more swiftly, local residents have urged the authorities to also address traffic congestion near Manipal Hospital and on top of the Marathahalli underpass, where vehicles pile up for several kilometres on both sides.

Engineers said the work will be taken up in three phases. "We will now begin excavation work by blocking a portion of the road between Marathahalli and Domlur. We will then build the retaining wall and complete the box work using pre-cast concrete elements. The other side of the road will be taken up subsequently," the executive engineer in charge of the project told *DH*. He said the corporation would need about 120 to 150 days to complete the entire project.

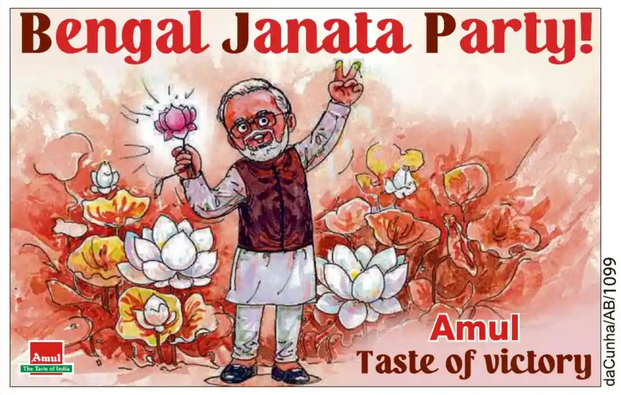
The corporation begins groundwork for the construction of an underpass at Wind Tunnel Road junction in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

During the construction phase, officials said they would maintain a four-lane road to ensure minimal traffic disruption. "We have made alternative arrangements for the movement of heavy vehicles, which will have to take a longer route," the engineer said.

An underpass at Wind Tunnel Road was part of the signal-free corridor project, which also included the construction of similar grade separators at the Suranjandas Road junction and Kundalahalli junction. While the Kundalahalli underpass was opened to the public in mid-2022, the Suranjandas Road underpass was ready in early 2023. Both projects took a long time to complete, but commuters continued to face traffic congestion at multiple points along the route.

With the corporation now building an underpass at Wind Tunnel Road, residents fear that vehicles will now pile up in front of Manipal Hospital. Vinod Jacob, a resident of the area, said the corporation and the traffic police would have to sit together to design a solution to the congestion near the hospital. "One option could be adding an extra lane to provide a free left towards Jeevanbhima Nagar. Another option is to ask the hospital management to provide separate entry and exit points," he said.

Corporation officials admitted that the signal in front of the hospital is likely to witness congestion, while promising to discuss solutions with the hospital management and traffic police.



Thundershowers lash east, southeast; temp dips below 20°C

BENGALURU, DHNS: After a ferocious hailstorm pummelled Bengaluru's central areas last week, powerful thundershowers lashed many suburbs in the city's east and southeast in the early hours of Monday.

The rain received between midnight and 5.30 am marked the second strong spell of pre-monsoon showers in Bengaluru and adjoining areas, including Kolar and Chikkaballapur.

Automatic weather stations operated by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC) recorded more than 40 mm of rainfall at three places: Budigere 54.5 mm, Seegehalli 46.5 mm and Mandur 41 mm.

Avalahalli recorded 31.5 mm, Doddagattiganabbe 31.5 mm, Doddabanahalli 30 mm, Lakkondahalli 21.5 mm and Hagadur 20.5 mm, according to the KSNDMC.

The India Meteorological Department's Bengaluru City observatory recorded 11.3 mm of rainfall in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am. The observatory has recorded 169 mm of rainfall this year, 103 mm above normal.

The pre-monsoon thundershowers have begun to significantly reduce the oppressive summer heat. After several weeks, the maximum temperature has fallen below 34°C.

At 5.30 pm on Monday, Bengaluru City recorded a maximum temperature of 33.4°C, down 0.9°C from normal. The maximum temperature at HAL Airport stood at 34.2°C, just 0.1°C above normal.

Minimum temperatures are falling significantly too.

At 8.30 am, the minimum temperature in Bengaluru City was 19.2°C, 3.1°C below the normal average. HAL Airport recorded 19°C, down 2°C. Both readings indicate relatively cool mornings and nights.

Relative humidity also showed sharp variations. At 8.30 am, it was 98%, meaning the air was almost completely saturated with moisture, indicating rain or dew/fog in the early morning. However, by 5.30 pm, the relative humidity had dropped to 44% as the sun warmed the air, making it feel drier, according to IMD data.

Thunderstorm until May 8

The IMD has forecast thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph until May 8.

Nearly 67% of the audited areas had water stagnation and were either poorly lit or completely lacked lighting. PHOTO: BNP

BNP flags poor footpath conditions across seven wards

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) audited the condition of footpaths across seven wards in the city. The report noted that none of the audited stretches was in a usable condition, forcing pedestrians to use the road instead.

The audited stretches included HSR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bilekahalli, Yelenahalli, Doddakamanahalli, Shakambharinagar and Sarakki.

The report highlighted a severe safety crisis. While physical footpaths were present in some form on 83% of the stretches, not a single audited footpath was found to be continuous or usable. Nearly 67% of the audited areas had water stagnation and were either poorly lit or completely lacked lighting.

Encroachment and garbage dumping were also found to be common across almost all the areas audited. Vehicle parking and construction debris each obstructed around 83% of the footpaths audited.

Commenting on the findings, Srikanth Narasimhan, founder and general secretary of BNP, said, "These issues persist predominantly due to a significant governance gap characterised by a lack of enforcement, monitoring systems, and clear institutional ownership. While this is a sample audit, it is enough to expose the apathy of the local authorities towards the convenience and safety of pedestrians in the city. In Bengaluru, we see thousands of crores being allocated for public works, yet the daily experience of a pedestrian is one of fear and inconvenience."

GBA mulls CDP road status for 318-km buffer stretch

Move could pave the way for betterment charges

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is contemplating designating a 318-km stretch of new roads coming up on the buffer zones of stormwater drains (SWDs) as "arterial roads" or "CDP roads". What is more, it also plans to levy betterment charges for allowing development activities along these roads.

CDP stands for Comprehensive Development Plan, also known as the city's master plan. Since the GBA is building these roads in places where such infrastructure did not exist earlier, it plans to include them in the CDP. This, in turn, would help builders and property owners undertake development activities by citing access to their properties while seeking building plan approvals.

It is learnt that the subject came up for discussion during a recent meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. At the meeting, officials suggested that levying betterment charges would require suitable amendments to the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act and the framing of rules, given that these roads fall under the jurisdiction of both the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

A new road is planned along the buffer zone of Bellandur Lake in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

The 318 km of buffer roads are at various stages of construction. These include stretches from Hebbal Military Farm to Hennur Main Road; Bellandur Lake to Dakshina Pinakini via Varthur; Outer Ring Road to RR Nagar along the Vrishabhavathi valley; and Yelahanka to Rachenahalli via Jakkur along the Hebbal valley, among others.

There are, however, concerns about these projects. While they may add to the existing road network, which is already congested, there are fears of flooding, given that Bengaluru has been witnessing high-intensity rain over short durations. Citizens concerned about the environment have been demanding the widening of existing drains to prevent flood-like situations instead of building new roads and attracting additional development.

Probe launched after drone spotted over ISRO's ISITE campus

BENGALURU, DHNS: HAL police have launched an investigation after an unmanned aerial vehicle was seen flying over the ISRO Satellite Integration and Test Establishment (ISITE) campus, a designated no-drone zone, on Saturday.

According to a police complaint, a sub-inspector from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) spotted the drone flying around 80-100 feet above the campus for about 10-12 seconds before it disappeared at around 8.16 am.

The ISITE campus is a highly sensitive area and has been officially classified as a restricted no-drone zone. Any unauthorised aerial activity in such zones poses a serious threat to security and safety, the complaint added.

Police have registered a case against unknown persons for operating the drone in the prohibited area without permission. Though no clues have emerged yet, efforts are under way to trace the suspect, police said.

Man stabbed to death while trying to stop bar brawl

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 45-year-old man was stabbed to death with a broken bottle while trying to intervene in a drunken brawl at a bar in RT Nagar on Sunday night.

The deceased has been identified as Puttaswamy, a resident of Chamundi Nagar, who worked at an eatery stall.

Police said that at around 9.30 pm, Puttaswamy had gone to the bar with friends when a fight broke out between two groups. As the bar staff tried to control the situation, Puttaswamy also stepped in to pacify them. During the altercation, one of the men allegedly attacked him with a broken bottle, stabbing him in the chest.

Puttaswamy did not go to a hospital for treatment and tried to walk home. He collapsed on the way and died. RT Nagar police have registered a case and are examining CCTV footage from the bar to identify the accused.

Sanitation workers seek safeguards against scorching heat

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Pourakarmikara Sangha has written to the Commissioner of Bengaluru Central City Corporation, urging immediate action to protect sanitation workers from the severe heat in the city.

In the letter, the association flagged concerns over the working conditions of Dalit and women sanitation workers. "They are being compelled to work under scorching heat from 6.30 am to 2.30 pm, often seven days a week without rest, and are denied national and festival holidays. Outdoor workers have no access to shelters, and these conditions pose serious risks to their health and well-being," the letter said.

Further, the association demanded that the corporations immediately declare half-day work without wage cuts, and provide drinking water, ORS and buttermilk daily. Workers should also be supplied with essentials such as eyeshades, caps, umbrellas and protective gear. The association will soon submit a similar letter to the other four city corporations.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Kannada Sahitya Parishad: 112th Foundation Day Celebration, Award Presentation: HP Nagarajaiah, Chairman: KA Dayananda, Lecture: Jagannath Hemadri, Awardee: KC Shivaswamy, M Jitendra, Venue: Srikrishnaraja Parishad's Mandir, Chamarajpet, 4 pm

BM Sri Pratishthan: Lecture: Kumaraswamy Bejjihalli, Presided over by: G Ashwathanarayana, Place: N.R. Colony, 5 PM

Tirumala Tirupati Temples Hindu Dharma Prachar Parishad: Bhajan: Vijaya Vitthal Bhajana Mandali, Religious Discourse: Prashanth Bhargavacharya, Place: Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Sudhindranagar, 6 PM

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST

Thunderstorm with rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	33.4°C
Minimum	19.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 am)	44%
Sunset (May 5)	6:35 pm
Sunrise (May 6)	5:58 am
Moonrise	8:56 pm
Moonset	7:33 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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TAMIL PRIDE

Vijay fans in Bengaluru celebrate TVK's landmark victory

SHARON NATASHA, BHIMIKA GAONKAR & ARNABI MALLICK
BENGALURU, DHNS

Supporters of actor-turned-politician Vijay erupted in celebration across the city on Monday after Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) made a historic debut in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, winning 108 seats. The city has a considerable Tamil-speaking population.

Members of the Bangalore Tamil Pasanga (BTP), active in social service and film promotions for the past eight years, turned several Tamil-dominated neighbourhoods into celebration zones as the results unfolded through the day. The biggest gathering was seen near the iconic Aruna Theatre in Srirampura, where fans gathered from early morning to follow the trends.

"This is history in the making. Initially, we hoped for around 30 to 40 seats, but seeing the party lead in over 100 constituencies since morning is a massive victory for us," said Naveen, vice-president of Bangalore Tamil Pasanga.

TVK supporters celebrate the party's victory by garlanding the Dr B R Ambedkar statue and holding aloft portraits of Vijay and the party flag at Ramachandrapuram in Bengaluru on Monday. PHOTO: SHARON NATASHA

Members of the Bangalore Tamil Pasanga fan association celebrate with a cake.

At Aruna Theatre, organisers distributed sweets to the public. "About 50 of our core team members have gathered here to share the joy with the people of Bengaluru," said Praveen, one of the key organisers.

In Malleswaram, fans prepared sweets for more than 300 people, while a cake-cutting ceremony took place right after the official results were announced. Fans also burst '10,000-wala' firecrackers to mark the victory.

Under a canopy of falling confetti and posters of Vijay, the BTP's celebration at Ramachandrapuram was thick with the scent of marigolds and the sound of rhythmic chanting as supporters draped garlands over the Ambedkar statue, anchoring the victory in a sense of social justice.

"It didn't feel like a political victory for a distant leader, it felt like someone from our own home had won. We are absolutely overjoyed. This win feels deeply personal. I can only compare it to the day my PUC results came out, the same level of nerves and now, the same level of relief and pride," said an overjoyed fan.

"We are here because we trust his word. He has promised to make our safety a priority, and seeing these results gives us hope that real change for women is finally coming," said a woman supporter. "For us, this isn't just a celebration of a man, but a celebration of the promises he made to protect us and our families," she added.

Elsewhere, RT Nagar, Ulsoor and Saibaba Nagar also saw celebrations, where supporters carried out small victory marches. Traditional Vijay strongholds such as Balaji and Pushpanjali theatres also drew crowds through the day.

A supporter at one of the venues said the political rise of TVK had given the fan network a new purpose. "Now, with the formation of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, our mission has a political direction," he said. With the electoral trends giving TVK a landmark debut, Bengaluru's Tamil fan base now appears ready to translate its film-star loyalty into a more formal political presence in the city.

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HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
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No. Health.145/2026/4 Date: Shillong the 04th May 2026

The **Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya**, invites applications from eligible personnel for the posts of **14 Professor, 20 Associate Professor and 25 Assistant Professors on a contract basis** in these various disciplines for the **proposed Tura Medical College targeted to be operational during 2026-27 Academic Year.**

For detailed advertisement, including eligibility criteria, application form and other instructions, please visit the official website of the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya: **https://meghealth.gov.in**

Sd/-
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Health & Family Welfare Department.

MIPR No.: 0328
Dated: 04-05-2026

WB result warning signal to Congress in K'taka: Joshi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi Monday said the BJP's victories in West Bengal and Assam would be repeated in Karnataka, as people of the state will reject the Congress due to its maladministration.

Hailing the West Bengal assembly election results, Joshi described it as a strong message against the TMC government's policies.

The Congress in Karnataka would face a similar outcome for its 'minority appeasement', Joshi told reporters here.

'Supporting anti-national elements'

He flayed the Congress for opposing the Women's Reservation Bill, supporting anti-national elements and criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Joshi said the party had already been rejected by voters nationally and would face the same fate in the 2028 Assembly polls in Karnataka.

The minister accused the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government of corruption and prioritising action against the Opposition over public welfare and infrastructure development.

Congress workers celebrate the victory of party candidate Samarth Shamanur in the bypolls to Davangere South Assembly constituency.

Election staff carry EVMs from strong room for counting of votes in Davangere on Monday. DH PHOTOS/SATISH BADIGER

Congress scrapes through after Muslim vote scare in D'gere south

SDPI nominee polls 18,975 votes, reduces Samarth's victory margin

VOTE METER

- Winner: Congress - 69,578 votes
- Nearest rival: BJP - 63,870 votes

NRUPATHUNGA S K
DAVANGERE, DHNS:

Samarth Shamanur Mallikarjuna of the Congress, son of district incharge Minister S S Mallikarjun, managed to retain the Davangere South seat for his party by a margin of 5,708 votes, despite the division of Muslim votes by the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI).

Also, it was the BJP's best performance in the constituency since 2008, though the party's candidate Srinivas T Dasakariyappa lost his maiden electoral battle.

Afsar Kodlipete of SDPI gave the ruling party a run for its money, by obtaining 18,975 votes, thus reducing the victory margin of the Congress.

In the 2013 elections, Karekatte Syed Saifulla of the JD(S) had gained 26,162 votes in the segment and had finished runner up, pushing the BJP to the third spot.

Though there were Muslim candidates in the fray in successive Assembly polls - 2018 and 2023, none of them managed to poll more than 7,000 votes.

Former councillor Sadiq Pailwan of the Congress, who backed out from the fray following directions from the chief minister after the last date for withdrawal of his nomination, got 47 votes.

With this victory, the Congress continued its winning streak Davangere South since 2008.

Veteran Congress leader the late Shamanur Shivashankarappa had represented this seat four times in a row.

Now his grandson Samarth has taken on the mantle from him.

The Shamanur family's strong bond with voters as people of the constituency are employed in mills, factories, hospitals and educational institutions run by them, guarantees of the state government, the family's political dominance in the district as Samarth's father Mallikarjun is a minister and mother Prabha is the MP and the huge respect for Shamanur Shivashankarappa among people of all communities proved beneficial for the Congress.

Lingayat vote division hits BJP

BJP's over-dependence on Hindu votes, failure to win over Muslim voters by visiting their households, absence of agents in 62 polling booths out of 284 in the constituency and the division of Lingayat community votes as BJP's nominee Srinivasa T Dasakariyappa belonged to ST community proved detrimental to it.

Of the 2,31,072 voters, 1,58,131 exercised their franchise and 511 opted for NOTA.

LEADERS' REACTIONS

SIDDARAMAIAH, Chief Minister

"The BJP's victory in West Bengal raises serious concerns about the health of India's democratic system. Its reliance on religious polarisation continues to undermine democratic values. I congratulate the voters of Kerala and Tamil Nadu for delivering a clear verdict - that the BJP's divisive politics has no place in their states, just as in Karnataka and Telangana.

D K SHIVAKUMAR, Deputy Chief Minister

"After 10 years of LDF rule, people wanted a change and hence have delivered this verdict. Even during campaigning, people expressed support for us (UDF). Tamil Nadu has thrown up a surprise verdict. A new era has begun. We couldn't grasp the people's pulse.

B S YEDIYURAPPA, member, BJP Parliamentary Board

"Just the way TMC was ousted from West Bengal, Congress will also be defeated in the upcoming elections in Karnataka. People have blessed NDA's commitment to development.

R ASHOKA, Leader of the Opposition in Assembly

"PM Narendra Modi's development-oriented governance and commitment to national security have led the people to vote for the BJP. This election result signals that the country is moving towards becoming Congress-free.

CM: DMK's defeat is setback for Dravidian politics

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday called the DMK's defeat in Tamil Nadu a "significant setback" to Dravidian politics and termed the surge in support for actor Vijay "concerning".

Siddaramaiah has, in the past, identified himself as a Dravidian. In a statement, he hoped that outgoing Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin would recover from this setback.

"The scale of the result in Tamil Nadu was unexpected. Despite anti-incumbency, the DMK government's welfare-oriented programmes had earned public appreciation," Siddaramaiah said.

"Tamil voters, who have historically rejected the BJP's communal politics, have always voted with awareness. It is concerning that sections of youth and women appear to have been swayed by the appeal of actor Vijay," Siddaramaiah said.

According to Siddaramaiah, the BJP's victory in West Bengal raises "serious concerns" about the health of India's democratic systmem.

"Its reliance on religious polarisation continues to undermine democratic values. I believe the people of West Bengal will reassess this mandate and respond accordingly in the next Lok Sabha elections," he said.

"In West Bengal, there was a strong anti-incumbency sentiment against Mamata Banerjee. Irregularities in voter list revisions, along with the misuse of administrative machinery, money and muscle power significantly influenced the outcome. The names of lakhs of her supporters were omitted from the rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)," Siddaramaiah argued.

Siddaramaiah hailed the election result in Kerala. "I congratulate the voters of Kerala and Tamil Nadu for delivering a clear verdict - that the BJP's divisive politics has no place in their states, just as in Karnataka and Telangana," he said, adding that Congress' victory in Kerala was anticipated and that top leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi "played a key role, working tirelessly".

On Congress winning the Bagalkot and Davangere South bypolls, Siddaramaiah said it was due to the achievements of his government and the party's ideology.

"Despite misinformation campaigns and the influence of money power, voters in both constituencies reaffirmed their trust in the Congress and our governance," he said.

SDPI getting votes is big setback for Cong: DKS

Rizwan Arshad says internal politics reduced victory margin

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday expressed concern over the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) eating into the Congress' votes in the Davangere South bypoll.

SDPI candidate Afsar Kodlipete polled 18,975 votes. As a result, Congress' victory margin was reduced to just 5,708 votes.

"This is a big danger for us. I didn't expect them (SDPI) to get so many votes. It's a big setback for us," Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress president, said.

It is widely believed that SDPI got Muslim votes that would have otherwise gone to Congress.

There were allegations that some Congress Muslim leaders, who were upset that the party did not give the ticket to someone from their community, tacitly supported the SDPI candidate.

Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad, who was deputed to Davangere South to end party leader Sadiq Pahilwan's rebellion, maintained that the Congress received 70% of minority votes.

"It was a challenging election. Due to our internal politics, the victory margin was low," he said.

Meanwhile, SDPI state president Abdul Majeed charged that there was a "tacit understanding" between congress and BJP. "Such political arrangements expose how major parties protect each other by sidelining genuine alternative forces like the SDPI," he said.

Majeed also accused Congress of electoral malpractices, including the use of "massive resources." He said: "Ground reports showed organised distribution of money to influence voters, destroying the spirit of a free and fair election."

Sringeri recount: DKS fumes

Shivakumar called for a "big investigation" into the recount of postal ballots after which BJP's D N Jeevaraj was declared as the new Sringeri MLA.

"What happened at Sringeri is a model crime for the entire country," Shivakumar said. "Genuine paper ballots were tampered with. Entire bundles, after being declared as valid, were tampered with and voters were added. This needs a big investigation," he said, adding that Congress would fight this legally.

Shivakumar also claimed that the BJP was "cleverly" ensuring blockage of the results of a recount of votes in the 2021 MLC election from the Chikmagalur Local Authorities seat, which BJP's M K Pranesh won against Congress' Gayathri Shantegowda. "It's been a year, but the results haven't been announced," he said.

Similarly, Shivakumar pointed out that no decision has been taken in the case of Jayanagar, where Congress' Sowmya Reddy has challenged her loss to BJP's C K Ramamurthy by just 16 votes.

RTC employees protest demanding arrears, pay hike

BENGALURU, DHNS: Road Transport Corporation (RTC) employees held a demonstration at Freedom Park on Monday, demanding payment of 38 months' arrears and a fresh salary revision under the 7th Pay Commission.

The strike was spearheaded by the Karnataka State Transport Employees' League.

In a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the league demanded that Karnataka's Congress government emulate Telangana in fulfilling its election manifesto promise of bringing RTC employees on a par with state government employees and giving them a pay hike as per the 7th Pay Commission.

League president R Chandra Shekar said that, although Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and the Managing Director of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) held meetings, they did not fulfil the demands placed by the employees.

While the government issued a circular to pay Rs 1,271.92 crore as 26 months' arrears, the league demanded 38 months' arrears totalling Rs 1,785 crore, starting January 1, 2020.

The government offered a 7% pay hike starting January 1, 2024, but the league demanded that RTC employees receive pay equal to state government staff as per the 7th Pay Commission. It also sought elections to the RTC employees' union.

The league is one of several unions claiming to represent RTC employees in the state.

The Joint Action Committee of the Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, which comprises 6 unions, has announced an indefinite bus strike starting May 20 over arrears payment and pay hike. It has also sought Rs 1,785 crore in arrears for 38 months (Jan 1, 2020, to Feb 28, 2023) and a 25% pay hike starting January 1, 2024. The committee wants the government to match the 27.5% hike granted to government employees under the 7th Pay Commission.

Karnataka awaiting 750 e-buses from Centre: Minister

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said the Centre was yet to make 750 electric buses available to the state under the PM e-Bus Scheme.

Reddy told reporters at Channammana-Kittur on Monday that depot and electrification facilities had been kept ready.

"After the buses are provided, we shall enter into gross cost control (GCC) agreement with the Centre to reduce costs as per which Centre will make private driver available and we shall provide conductor and e-charging facilities," he said.

On buses not plying on certain routes due to bad road conditions and narrow roads, he said buses would be made available based on road conditions and traffic demands.

On KSRTC staff demanding clearance of arrears, Reddy said wages had to be revised from 2020. When the BJP government demitted office, 38 months of arrears were pending. The state had taken a stand to pay arrears from April 2021. Talks would be held with employee representatives, he said.

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OBITUARY
Sisters of Notre Dame regret to inform the sad demise of
ALEYKUTTY PEZHUMKATTIL
Fondly known as
Sr. Mary Shobhita SND
(Former teacher, Sophia Opportunity School)

Born: 29/01/1948
Profession: 06/01/1978
Death: 03/05/2026
Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, 05 May 2026 at 9.30 am at Shalom Sadan, Notre Dame Convent, Hinkal, Mysore.

DH Classifieds »

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **UMANATHA** and **UMANATH SHETTY,** R/at No. 1/34, Hadimane, Vaddarse Village, Bannady Post, Brahmavara Taluk, Udupi Dist-576225, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **UMANATH SHETTY** vide affidavit dated 02-05-2026 before notary Amaranarayana Reddy, Anekal Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **TOUHEEDULLAH MOHEMAD BAHADUR** (old name), residing at # 50/A, 9th Cross, HBR Layout 2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru-560043, have changed my name to **TOUHEEDULLAH BAHADUR,** (New name), vide affidavit dated 2-4-2026 before XXXVIII Addi. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City. Henceforth I shall be called **TOUHEEDULLAH BAHADUR** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SADIYA MOHAMMED YUSUF SHAIKH** (old name), residing at # 50/A, 9th Cross, HBR Layout 2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru- 560043, have changed my name to **SADIYA SHAIKH** (New name), vide affidavit dated 27-04-2026 before XXXVIII Addi. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City. Henceforth I shall be called **SADIYA SHAIKH** only.

I, MEGHA SARTHAK ADAVI, presently residing at Flat F, 2nd Floor, Susheel Chandra Apartment, 17th A Cross, 10th A Main, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560055, have changed my name from MEGHA SARTHAK ADAVI to MEGHA WADAPPI, vide affidavit dated 26/04/2026, sworn before B.R.Shashikala, Notary, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VINAYA ANAND** and **VINAYA YASHODHARAN,** residing at # 601, H Block, Akme Ballet Apartment, Outer Ring Road, Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru-560037, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **VINAYA ANAND,** vide affidavit dated 04-05-2026 before notary K V Mani, Bengaluru.

I, PRATIK KUMAR PRAKASH MEHTA R/a #.13, 1st cross road, Gavipuram Extension, Sunkenahalli Bengaluru-560019, have changed my name from PRATIK KUMAR PRAKASH MEHTA To PRATIK KUMAR MEHTA vide affidavit dated 29/04/2026 before notary Muhammad Hussain. K. Bangalore.

I, BASAWARAJ S/o. Sri. Yamunappa Residing at: #46, 1st Main,2nd Cross, Marappa Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore- 560098 have changed my name to BASAVARAJ vide affidavit dated 22.01.2026 sworn before notary S R Tulasikrishna, Bangalore

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SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Supply of Materials as mentioned below:

Sl.No	Nomenclature of the work	Tender No
1	Supply of LT 4 Pin x Arms MS to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0249
2	Supply of 11kV Horizontal X Arms Mild Steel(MS) to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0250
3	Supply of HT ST Support 50x6mm Flat - MS to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0251
4	Supply of Anchor Rod using 12mm rounds/Guy Rod - MS to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0255
5	Supply of PSC Pole(200KG WL) clamp - MS to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0256
6	Supply of RCC Pole clamp – MS to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0257
7	Supply of 8 SWG GI Wire to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0258
8	Supply of 7/10 SWG Guy Wire to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0259
9	Supply of 11kV 5KN Composite/Polymeric Pin Insulator (24mmdia FRP Rod) to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0262
10	Supply of No.8 Strain Insulator to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0263
11	Supply of No.15 Strain Insulator to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0264
12	Supply of Silcon Rubber Composite Insulator 11kV 45kN Polymeric to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0265
13	Supply of Rabbit ACSR Conductor to CESC jurisdiction.	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0266
14	Supply of 25 kVA 4 star / star-1 Distribution Transformer to CESC	CESCOM/2026-27/IND0267

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **06.05.2026.** For clarification contact help desk **080-46010000 / 22631200 / 68948777 or e-mail address support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
e-mail: directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com, Phone No. : 08472-260252

No.GIMS/KLB/Tender/Tab&Cap/CR/09/2026-27/ 216, Date : 27.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites tender for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement 2.0 mode for the SUPPLY of **"Tablets & Capsules" for Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital Kalaburagi** Details are available in the site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Last date and time for upload of e-Tender in E-procurement platform as follows.
Commencement of download of e-Tender form from website :https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, No.GIMS /KLB/Tender /Tab&Cap/CR/09/2026-27 Date: 27.04.2026 IND No.DME/2026-27/IND2272. Last date for Queries : 08.05.2026 at 17.00 pm, Pre-bid Meeting : **12.05.2026 at 12.30 pm**, Last date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before : **26.05.2026 at 4.30 pm,** Opening of Techno -Commercial Bid: **27.05.2026 at 05.00 pm,** Opening of Tenders Financial bid **29.05.2026 at 11.30 am,** Tender amount **Rs.2,57,37,720.00,** EMD **Rs.2,00,000.00,** Contact Details : Director, GIMS Kalaburagi veresh Nagar, Sedam road, Kalaburagi 585 105, Office e-mail: directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com, Land line : 08472-260252 cell:9482093568, Tender Section email: gimstenderklb22@gmail.com Cell: 9972688602

DIPR/Kalaburagi/96/Deshpande Publicity//2026-27/ **Sd/- Director, Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences Kalaburagi**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No(s) 30025-30028 OF 2024
WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

HARISH KUMAR (DEAD) BY LRS AND OTHERS ....Petitioner(s)
VERSUS
THE STATE OF KARNATAKA AND OTHERS ....Respondent(s)

To,

1 SRI.DALI MUNIYAPPA, AGED ABOUT 65 YEARS, S/O MUNI OBALAPPA, R/A ULLAL VILLAGE, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK, BENGALURU -560110. KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98100/2026 FOR R[19] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024, SLP(C) NO. 30026/ 2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
2 SMT.B.V. RATHNAMMA, AGED ABOUT 60 YEARS, D/O LATE VENKATARAMAIAH, R/A NO.33, 12TH E CROSS, MAGADI ROAD, BENGALURU-560023., KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98101/2026 FOR R[21] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024, SLP(C) NO. 30026/ 2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
3 SRI.H.CHANDRAKEERTHI, AGED ABOUT 41 YEARS, S/O LATE HANUMAIAH, R/A ULLAL VILLAGE, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK, BENGALURU-560110, KARNATAKA	**PID: 98102/2026 FOR R[24] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024, SLP(C) NO. 30026/ 2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
4 SMT.PARVATHAMMA, AGED ABOUT 71 YEARS, D/O LATE DASAPPA, RESIDING AT NO.36, ULLALA MAIN ROAD, OPP ULLAL LAKE, BENGALURU-560110, KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98103/2026 FOR R[34] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024, SLP© NO. 30026/ 2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
5 SRI.NARASIMHA MURTHY, S/O LATE PUTTAIAH, AGED ABOUT 55 YEARS RESIDING AT NO.36, ULLALA MAIN ROAD, OPP ULLAL LAKE, BENGALURU-560110, KARNATAKA	**PID: 98104/2026 FOR R[35] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024, SLP(C) NO. 30026/2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
6 SRI.NARASIMHA MURTHY, SON OF LATE MALLAIAH AGED ABOUT 63 YEARS RESIDING AT NO.36, ULLALA MAIN ROAD, OPP ULLAL LAKE, BENGALURU-560110, KARNATAKA	**PID: 98105/2026 FOR R[36] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
7 V.HARISH KUMAR, S/O LATE M.VENKATARAMAIAH, MAJOR, R/O NO.33, 13TH STREET, AGRAHARA DASARAHALLI, MAGADI ROAD, BANGALORE-560079. KARNATAKA	**PID: 98106/2026 FOR R[60] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30027/2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
8 R.SHOBHA, D/O Y.RAMAKRISHNA, W/O M.C. KESHAVAMURTHY, AGED ABOUT 37 YEARS, R/A NO.11/1, 1ST MAIN, 1ST CROSS, VALMIKINAGAR, MYSORE ROAD, BANGALORE-560026 KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98107/2026 FOR R[61] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30027/2024SLP© NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
9 SAROJAMMA, AGED ABOUT 77 YEARS, W/O LATE K.N SRINIVASA GUPTA. RESIDING AT NO.9, 100 FEET ROAD, BANASHANKARI, 2ND STAGE, 4TH BLOCK, BANGALORE-560083. KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98108/2026 FOR R[66] IN IN SLP(C) NO.30028/2024SLP© NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
10 SRI. M. S MOHAN KUMAR, ABOUT 60 YEARS, S/O LATE K.N SRINIVASA GUPTA. RESIDING AT NO.9, BANASHANKARI, 2ND STAGE, 100 FEET ROAD, 4TH BLOCK, BANGALORE-560083., KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98109/2026 FOR R[67] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
11 SRI.K.S. SURENDRA BABU, AGED ABOUT 51 YEARS, S/O LATE K.N SRINIVASA GUPTA.RESIDING AT NO.9, 100 FEET ROAD, BANASHANKARI, 2ND STAGE, 4TH BLOCK, BANGALORE-560083. KARNATAKA	**PID: 98110/2026 FOR R[68] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
12 SRI.K.S VISHWAKIRAN, AGED ABOUT 46 YEARS, S/O LATE K.N SRINIVASA GUPTA. RESIDING AT NO.9, 100 FEET ROAD, BANASHANKARI, 2ND STAGE, 4TH BLOCK, BANGALORE-560083., KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98111/2026 FOR R[69] IN IN SLP(C) NO.30028/2024SLP© NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
13 SRI. R. V. SUDHIR, S/O LATE RAJA VENKATARAMANA SHETTY. RESIDING AT NO.37/55, SURVEYOR ROAD, BASAVANAGUDI, BENGALURU-560004 KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98112/2026 FOR R[72] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024SLP© NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
14 RUDRA MURTHY S/O H. S. SADASHIVAIAH, R/O ILLALU VILLAGE, YESWANTHAPURA HOBLI BENGALURU NORTH TALUK -560056, KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98113/2026 FOR R[77] IN IN SLP(C) NO.30028/2024SLP© NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
15 CHANDRAN S/O LATE NANJUNDAPPA, R/O ILLALU VILLAGE YESWANTHAPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK-560056 KARNATAKA	**PID: 98113/2026 FOR R[77] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
16 NARASAPPA S/O BASAPPA, R/O ILLALU VILLAGE YESWANTHAPURA HOBLI BENGALURU NORTH TALUK - 560056 KARNATAKA	**PID: 98115/2026 FOR R[79] IN IN SLP(C) NO.30028/2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
17 GANGARAJU S/O NAGARAJU, R/O ILLALU VILLAGE YESWANTHAPURA HOBLI BENGALURU NORTH TALUK – 560056. KARNATAKA	**PID: 98116/2026 FOR R[80] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
18 MUDDUHAHONNAIAH S/O JAYANNA, R/O ILLALU VILLAGE YESWANTHAPURA HOBLI BENGALURU NORTH TALUK - 560056 KARNATAKA	**PID: 98117/2026 FOR R[81] IN IN SLP(C) NO.30028/2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
19 CHANDRAPPA S/O LATE RAJAPPA, R/O ILLALU VILLAGE YESWANTHAPURA HOBLI BENGALURU NORTH TALUK – 560056 KARNATAKA	**PID: 98118/2026 FOR R[82] IN IN SLP(C) NO.30028/2024SLP(C) NO.30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**

WHEREAS the Petition for SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) to Appeal with application for EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING, DISMISSAL OF APPEAL, INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., APPLICATION FOR SUBSTITUTION, EARLY HEARING APPLICATION, PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION, EXEMPTION FROM APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR, PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR TO FILE DIRECTION, PERMISSION ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Ms. JAYASREE NARASIMHAN, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 09th December, 2024 along with the connected matters, when the Court was pleased to inter-alia pass the following order:-

"SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) DIARY NO. 53577/2024

1.Delay condoned.

2. Issue notice.

3.Till the next date of hearing, the possession of the disputed property shall not be disturbed

WHEREAS, the matter was listed for hearing before this Court on 09th April, 2026 along with the connected matters, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"1. Mr. Kapil Sibal, learned senior counsel appearing for the State of Karnataka in SLP(C) No. 28248-28258/2024, submits that documents dating back to 1890 have since been traced which would prove the character of the lands in dispute as gomal'. According to him, these documents need to be placed on record since they have a material bearing on the special leave petitions under consideration.

2. Let such additional documents be placed on record by filing an appropriate application within three weeks.

3. Exception to such application may be taken by the petitioners within a week thereafter.

4. We have heard Mr. Debal Banerji, learned senior counsel appearing for K.S. Subbaraju - respondent No.7 in SLP (C) No. 30028/2024 in support of the prayer that the said petition should be dismissed.

5. Considering the submissions made by Mr. Sibal recorded above that the Government has since traced old records to the effect that disputed lands are 'gomal', we are of the considered opinion that the application seeking dismissal of SLP (C) No. 30028/2024 ought to be heard along with the special leave petitions.

6. Re-list the special leave petitions and all connected applications ca 21st May, 2026 at 12:00 noon.

7. Interim order, passed earlier, shall continue till the next date of hearing.

8. The latest office report has been read. Some of the respondents are yet to be served.

9. Fresh steps be taken by the State of Karnataka to effect service through paper publication, within two weeks from date. Notice may be published in one English daily newspaper, viz. Deccan Herald and one Kannada newspaper, viz. Kannada Prabha.

10. Once the paper publications are made, the related documents be filed before the Registry a week prior to the returnable date. Put up an appropriate office report."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition will be posted for hearing before this Court on 21st May, 2026 at 10.30 O' Clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as may be convenient to the Court when you may appear before the court either in person or through Counsel and show cause to the Court as to why Special Leave and interim relief as prayed for be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 immediately from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPS and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted..

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated: 13th April, 2026

Copy to :-

1 Mr. Anirudh Sanganeria (adv.), **2** Ms. Jayasree Narasimhan (adv.), **3** Mr. Deepak Prakash (adv.) **4** Mr. Lzafeer Ahmad B. F. (adv.), **5** Ms. Patil Rekha Chandra Gouda (adv.), **6** Ms. Smriti Churiwal (adv.), **7** Mr. Javedur Rahman (adv.), **8** Mr. Vishnu Sharma A.s. (adv.)

Sd/-
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

DIPR/CP/496/Zen/2026-27

Congress dominates, yet to lose a bypoll since coming to power

Internal bickering and lack of coordination hurt BJP

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The continuing dominance of the ruling Congress, which has won all six bypolls since coming to power in Karnataka in 2023, has yet again exposed chinks within the BJP's armour.

Since 2023, when the Congress came to power, the BJP has tasted defeat in five bypolls: Shorapur, Shiggaon, Sandur, Davangere South, and Bagalkot. The BJP's ally JD(S) failed to retain the Channapatna seat, which Congress wrested.

Two-and-a-half-years since B Y Vijayendra assumed state presidency, BJP has not yet registered a major electoral victory. Yes, it bagged 17 seats in 2024 Lok Sabha polls, but it was 8 seats less than its 2019 tally of 25. The NDA failed to retain Channapatna and Shiggaon, where Nikhil Kumaraswamy and Bharat Bommai — sons of former chief ministers H D Kumaraswamy and Basavaraj Bommai, respectively — were convincingly defeated by the Congress.

Though rabble rouser Basanagouda Patil Yatnal was expelled from BJP in March 2025 for his constant tirade against former CM B S Yediyurappa's family, internal bickering within the BJP hasn't fully died down. The lack of coordination has been visible both inside the legislature and outside.

Bagalkot setback

The BJP will be particularly concerned with the defeat in Bagalkot, where it lost by a significant margin of around 22,332 votes, despite fielding three-time MLA Veeranna Charantimath.

The BJP, which had lost Bagalkot in the 2023 polls by a relatively smaller margin of 5,878 votes, was hoping for a comeback.

However, consolidation of the minority and Kuruba communities behind the Congress, and campaigning by Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and other ministers is said to have boosted the ruling party's chances in the last leg of electioneering. Yatnal's campaigning for his "friend" Charanthimath also failed to create any impact.

Congress legislators Rizwan Arshad and Saleem Ahmed offer sweets to KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar after the party's victory in Davangere and Bagalkot bypolls, in Bengaluru on Monday.
DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

Davangere South

With the Muslims disgruntled that the Congress didn't hand over the Davangere south seat to the community despite its significant numbers (around 80,000), SDPI candidate garnered 18,975 votes.

As a result, Congress's victory margin significantly reduced here from 27,888 to 5,708 votes. However, the BJP was unable to utilise the opportunity and register its first-ever victory in the constituency.

Political commentator A Narayana saw the verdict as a result of systemic advantages for the ruling party in bypolls.

"Historically, ruling parties have more resources and are keen to win the prestige battle. Secondly, political psychology of voters also prefers a ruling party MLA who has better chances of getting things done."

However, Narayana felt this verdict didn't prove any pro-incumbency in favour of Congress.

"It doesn't seem that the factors that worked for Congress now will also help them in the 2028 polls."

Umesh Meti starts political journey on a triumphant note

Congress candidate wins Bagalkot seat by a margin of 22,322 votes

SHRINIDHI R
BAGALKOT, DHNS

In a triumphant electoral debut, Umesh Meti, son of former MLA H Y Meti, whose death necessitated the byelection to the Bagalkot Assembly seat, won the seat his father had held, defeating BJP veteran and three-time MLA Veeranna Charantimath by a margin of 22,322 votes.

Umesh polled 98,919 votes to Charantimath's 76,587 votes, handing the latter his third defeat in six outings at the hustings. Given that results in byelections, more often than not, tend to swing in the ruling party's favour, Umesh's victory was not wholly unexpected. However, the Congress left no stone unturned in ensuring its candidate's victory, treating the bypoll as a prestige battle, with a phalanx of senior ministers being deployed for the campaign.

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, who was put in charge of Congress's campaign in Bagalkot, camped in the constituency for nearly two months, overseeing a massive outreach effort. A markedly higher turnout in the rural pockets of the seat (82%), compared to the urban centres (48%), too helped tilt the scales in Umesh's favour since rural voters have traditionally been a strong base of the Congress party. The lower turn-out in the urban pockets, coupled with the women factor, appears to have played a decisive role in shaping the outcome of the battle.

Bagalkot district holds a special place in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's heart given that he secured a narrow victory in Badami in the 2018 Assembly election against BJP's B Sriramulu, despite losing the Chamundeshwari seat in his home district Mysuru. In fact, Siddaramaiah campaigned for five days for Umesh to ensure the party's victory in the byelection. Prior to the byelection's announcement, the CM, addressing a massive rally in Bagalkot, announced a slew of development projects for the district, including the establishment of a government medical college. Charantimath had hoped to assuage his loss in the 2023 election with a triumphant return in the byelection.

But despite senior BJP leaders campaigning for him, he was unable to emerge successful. In a bid to consolidate the Hindu vote in the constituency, Charantimath even had expelled BJP leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal campaign for him, to no avail.

Supporters carry victorious Congress candidate Umesh Meti in Bagalkot on Monday.

MOMENT OF PRIDE

Femina Miss India-2026 Sadhvi Sail, daughter of Congress MLA Satish Sail (Karwar), called on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Monday.

18 injured in amusement ride mishap in Gadag

GADAG, DHNS: As many as 18 people were injured in an amusement ride mishap that occurred during the Jatra Mahotsava held on the premises of Tontadarya Mutt in the city on Sunday. Of the 18, the condition of four is said to be critical.

At around 9 pm on Sunday night, 'Dancing Play' (also known as Break Dance & Crazy Dance) ride malfunctioned with three of its chairs tilted dangerously.

The people inside these chairs were injured and rushed to Gadag Institute of Medical Sciences and Karnataka Medical College and Research Institute (KMC-RI) Hubballi. Among the injured, who are yet to be identified, two are from Koppal district, one from Tumakuru, and the rest from Gadag district, the police said.

The four victims, who are in critical condition, are severely injured in head and have been shifted to KMC-RI, they added. Members of Hindu Veerashaiva Lingayat Yuva Vedike staged a protest against the Tontadarya Jatra Mahotsava Committee. They said that the contractor who bagged the tender to organise amusement activities during the Jatra and office-bearers of the mahotsava committee should be held responsible and strict action should be taken against them.

Land for non-existent entity: SC stays K'taka HC order

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Karnataka High Court's order which directed for a CBI probe into alleged criminal conspiracy entered by state officials and private individuals into acquisition of over 50 acres of land proposed in Bengaluru in early 2000 for use of then a non-existent entity, Lakeview Tourism Corporation.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and K Vinod Chandran ordered status quo into the matter, after hearing Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and advocate Nishanth Patil on behalf of the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board and senior advocate Shyam Divan for the Karnataka government.

The court issued notice to the private respondents on whose plea the High Court's judgment was delivered on April 10, 2026, also quashing the entire acquisition proceedings with Rs 10 lakh cost to be paid by the private entity.

Zameer in Kerala after Venugopal's call

BENGALURU, DHNS: Housing Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, who was a 'star campaigner' for Congress in Kerala, left for Calicut upon the direction of the party's general secretary K C Venugopal on Monday morning.

According to the minister's office, the Congress-led UDF won in 27 out of 33 constituencies where Zameer campaigned.

22-year-old woman molested while out on walk

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 22-year-old woman has alleged that an unidentified man molested her while she was out for a walk in Mathikere on Sunday night.

The RMV 2nd Stage resident, who works for a private company, told police that she was walking with a male friend when an unidentified man riding a black two-wheeler and wearing a black shirt approached from behind near a restaurant on MSR Nagar 3rd Cross at around 10 pm and allegedly started misbehaving. When her friend shouted at the man, he reportedly laughed it off and rode away.

The woman said she could note only a part of the vehicle registration number as "KA-058", but was not certain. Based on her complaint, Sadashivanagar police have registered a case and detained a suspect for further interrogation.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/Tr(Op)ZM/SEE(O)/EEcivil/EOD-1/26-27/633 Date: 30.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites e-bids against the **Enquiry No: KPTCL/2025-26/ BD/WORK_INDENT3206/CALL-2** for Construction of Damaged retaining wall and other allied works at 66/11kV **Gargeshwari** sub-station T. Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District- Others.

The tender for the above work is invited through electronic mode. The interested bidders can obtain the application in electronic mode by paying the tender fee. The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https:// kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **05.05.2026.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Ground Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Winds of change: Rising hero, fallen bastions

The Assembly elections in four states and one Union Territory saw a big vote for change in three states and a mandate for continuity in one state and the UT. West Bengal and Tamil Nadu saw tectonic political shifts, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) poised for power in the former and the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), led by actor Vijay, set to dethrone the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in the latter. Kerala will see the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) return to power on a bumper vote and a sweeping rejection of the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF). The victory of the BJP-led coalition in Assam and the NDA coalition (comprising the BJP and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) in Puducherry was expected, and the incumbents improved their positions.

For the BJP, West Bengal has been a final frontier among the major states, where it has crossed the two-thirds majority. The party was nowhere in the state's electoral landscape in 2011, but has steadily improved its position since then, using a combination of political nous and assertions of power. It attracted leaders from other parties, used its power at the Centre effectively, and successfully adopted social engineering as a political strategy. Polarising narratives have also been part of the playbook, placed as a counter to the Trinamool Congress (TMC)'s traditional Muslim vote base. The BJP gained from branding the TMC as anti-Hindu and supportive of illegal immigrants. Its campaign was largely pegged to issues such as undocumented migration, corruption, unemployment, and lack of women's safety. The Election Commission of India (ECI)'s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls may have hit the TMC's numbers. However, none of these factors would have affected the TMC if there were no strong resentment against the party, which has ruled the state for three terms. Among the youth, the anxieties over the lack of opportunities are palpable. Mamata Banerjee's support among women seems to have waned. Her loss in Bhabanipur reflects a collective shift in the voters' mood. The RG Kar Medical College rape and murder dented the government's image among women, especially among urban women. It is in this climate of discontent that the BJP made promises of development, good governance, and secure borders. This message of change, delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, appears to have found takers across sections. A Hindu consolidation in many constituencies is also likely to have helped the party.

Anti-incumbency is the headline theme as election results reshape regional power dynamics and signal caution to the national Opposition

Tamil Nadu has witnessed electoral history, with the DMK led by M K Stalin losing heavily to a party formed two years ago and considered capable only of a marginal impact. This stunning defeat shows that the sentiments against the government were strong over issues such as corruption, nepotism, and misgovernance. Stalin's defeat in his stronghold in Kolathur best exemplifies the trend. Support for the DMK appears to be eroding significantly across all sections, especially among Dalit and minority groups. In a significant turnaround, a new party riding on the charisma and mass appeal of its leader has toppled a government and a political model built on the Dravidian identity. Tamil Nadu has always had strong links between its politics and its cinema. Vijay was at the right place to seize the moment. Notably, this is for the first time in six decades that a party and a leader without any stated credentials of the Dravidian ideology is rising to power in the state. The AIADMK, which has been grappling with a leadership crisis and political setbacks since J Jayalalitha's death in 2016, has lost further ground.

For the Congress, there is relief in the big win in Kerala, where the UDF led by the party registered a victory with two-thirds majority. The LDF government, in power for 10 years in a state that has historically seen rival alliances alternating every five years, has been hit by a strong wave of anti-government sentiment. The ruling front suffered heavy reverses, with many of its ministers and senior leaders losing their seats. A consolidation of votes in the Muslim and Christian communities appears to have pushed the mood further towards the UDF, leading to a sweep for the opposition bloc. For the first time, the BJP won three seats in the state – a commendable show, even though the party had hoped for bigger numbers. In Assam, the electorate has extended its endorsement of the incumbent BJP, which has been in power in the state for 10 years. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma has followed a policy of polarisation, both in governance and stated political positions. The no-holds-barred approach has helped the BJP to improve its position in a state that is already divided along communal lines.

On the national stage, the poll results point to a weakening Opposition. Both the TMC and the DMK have been pillars of the opposition grouping, with Mamata and Stalin among the staunchest of critics of the BJP and its allies. They stand diminished now. Their defeat also signals the enfeeblement of regional political forces that were considered capable of resisting the BJP onslaught. States such as Maharashtra and Bihar have already witnessed the decline and fragmentation of regional parties. The 2026 results risk extending this pattern. In the Left's defeat in Kerala, there is another blow to the larger national opposition: for the first time in five decades, no government in India will have a Communist presence.

SHIFTING STATES

Big sweeps and some questions that count

In polls that signify decisive change, the BJP is the big gainer. But its surge in West Bengal may still face a test of trust

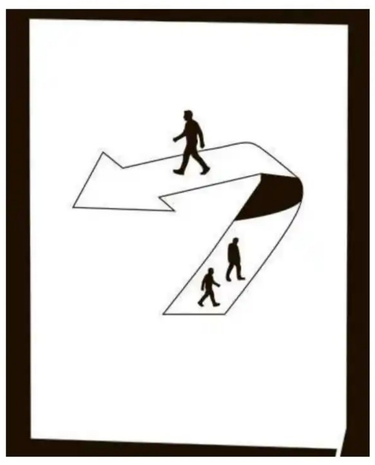
JAGDISH RATTANANI

The election results from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry on the surface are a boost for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its style of electioneering – brash, in your face, communal, and broadly free of restrictions that would apply to other parties under the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s model code of conduct. If Assam is seen as a predictable BJP victory and Tamil Nadu as a favourable BJP result—one where the strong anti-BJP voice of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) under M K Stalin has been reined in—West Bengal is the prize that would make the BJP stand out and the Opposition cry foul.

The state that has resisted the saffron advance for decades finally makes way for the BJP in a bitterly contested election against the incumbent Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Trinamool Congress (TMC), but this is a result not without its concerns and complexities. This is the first time that the BJP will take power in West Bengal. This clearly represents a tectonic shift in Bengal's political landscape and will impact the nation's politics. The state, led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) for over 23 years and by the TMC for 15 years, now goes to the BJP.

But the West Bengal result raises important questions about the fairness and robustness of the election process itself, and to the extent that it may erode faith in the process, it brings other elections and results into doubt. This strikes at the roots of the democratic form of government in ways all too obvious, but these worries will be easily brushed aside by the BJP in the first flush of victory. The party will be unwilling and unable to see the price this victory will exact on the nation, particularly if serious questions on the deletion of voters under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls are not answered.

At the time of writing this, the BJP's leads and wins together were above 200 in the West Bengal Assembly of 294, while the TMC's were in the mid-80s. The BJP's vote share stood at 45.4% towards the evening, above TMC's 40.85%, according to the ECI's live data. The numbers will change as more results come in. In the most recent election, the Lok Sabha polls of 2024, the BJP's vote share was 38.73%, behind TMC's 45.76%. In the two years between two key elections, the BJP in West Bengal has registered dramatic growth: its vote share trailed the TMC



by 7.03 percentage points, and now it leads by 4.55 percentage points. If indications are that the SIR appears to stand as a plausible cause for the party's dramatic emergence in West Bengal, there will be a lot of discomfort with the results, and a lot for the ECI to answer.

Expanding footprint

In Tamil Nadu, the result has delivered a surprising reversal for the DMK. The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), founded by actor-turned-politician Vijay, is in the lead with over 100 seats, with the DMK coming in as the second largest party at 62. With counting still on at the time of writing this, it is not clear if Vijay's party will secure the 118 seats required to form a government. Yet, the emerging picture is of the TVK on its own or with support from other groups or alliances taking power in the state. This, too, represents a monumental shift in the politics of Tamil Nadu and of India. This is the first time in over 50 years that Tamil Nadu would have broken away from the politics of the DMK versus AIADMK that the state has witnessed every election.

It is too early to say what this means or how Vijay will play out as the Chief Minister, particularly in his relationship with the BJP. Vijay has opposed the BJP's pet scheme of 'one nation-one election' and has in the past described the BJP as an ideological foe and the DMK as a political rival. Yet, the BJP may wish to have him on its side if only to stem criticism against the party and, in return, to have better relations with a state that has been a bold opponent of its politics.

In Kerala, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) has come to power after a decade, with its tally crossing 100 in a House of 140. The BJP has won three Assembly seats for the first time, in some sense an achievement given the party's poor electoral history in the state. Much can be made of this slow enlarging of the BJP footprint in a state that has consistently resisted the BJP, but it also shows that determined campaigning with special efforts can turn the tide. This calls for an equally spirited, determined, and vigilant Opposition.

At the end of the day, this is a political battle that shows the BJP to be an unstoppable steamroller, now controlling power across the North, the West, and the East. The Opposition parties, which have been unable to come together with a cogent way to stand up and fight the political fight for the long haul, will have to once again think of the road ahead. It is clear that the BJP of today will stop at nothing in doing the deals it needs to take power: from breaking political parties and using the investigative agencies to raising the communal pitch in politics. If this must be challenged, the Opposition will have to set aside its differences, unite, and rebuild with principles and values long lost to Indian politics.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

From peels to plenty

The pleasures of gardening are unparalleled

PREETI ARANHA

I was pleasantly surprised one morning when I found little plants in our pot. They looked like vegetable plants, but we couldn't quite figure out what exactly they were. As they grew, the leaves took on an artistic cut, like delicate lace work along the edges, almost ornamental in their beauty.

It was a delight to watch the plant turn into a creeper, its tendrils reaching out and clinging gently to the railing. We kept wondering which vegetable it might be, recalling how I had emptied a dish of assorted seeds and peels into the pot. Soon, small yellow flowers began to appear; fingers crossed, we hoped they would not all drop off. The few that remained slowly swelled and revealed themselves as little bitter gourds. Our happiness knew no bounds.

After a few days, the bitter gourds were ready to be plucked, and a succulent dish of bitter gourd became the star of the dining table. The family loved it, and the long, much-ignored vegetable turned into the star attraction among all the plants. I replanted the seeds, and more plants came up; now we knew what treat to expect. Sometimes, amid the dense foliage, a serendipitous discovery would result in a whoop—a prettily patterned bitter gourd nestled there quietly, perfectly camouflaged by the leaves. The bitter gourd creepers were here to stay, and every month, they gifted us their abundance.

The pleasures of gardening are unparalleled. There is a farmers' market every Sunday in our town, where farmers from in and around Mangaluru come by to sell their home-grown produce. After experiencing the joy of growing our own produce at home, we now relate to them in a more personal way. It doesn't matter how large or small the vegetable is; the simple fact that it is home-grown and nurtured under watchful, loving care makes it taste more delicious and richer.

My father was in the judiciary, and we were transferred every three to five years. In every place we lived, he would begin work on a vegetable garden—beans, cauliflower, peas, tomatoes, bottle gourd, and much more. Our neighbours were always recipients of this fresh produce. "While books be your best companions, make plants your friends," he would tell me, a lesson that has endured.

The joys of sowing and reaping are unsurpassed; for what we sow, we reap. As parts of this circle of life, let the wheels of fortune spin gently, yielding the best of the harvest that is sown and, in doing so, making the world around us a better place to live.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

End of an era for the Left?

The election results in Kerala appear to signal the end of an era for the Left in India. After suffering decisive defeats in former bastions such as West Bengal and Tripura, where they were displaced by the Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party, respectively, Kerala remained the movement's last refuge, the last frontier. The loss of the Left is a watershed moment for the state, which made history in 1957 by electing Asia's first democratically elected Communist government. While this defeat suggests a national decline, it would be premature to write the Left off entirely, given the party's deeply entrenched organisational structure and strong grassroots cadre presence.
Adrian David, Chennai

Ball in US' court

Apropos 'Iran's new proposal seeks to end issues with US in 40 days' (May 4), Iran has done well to draw up a concrete and comprehensive proposal to end the war with the US and Israel. According to Iranian sources, the US' reply has already been filed with Pakistan, which is arbitrating between the warring nations. The US will have to adopt a give-and-take policy if it is serious about ending the war, which has already drained its exchequer of billions of dollars. It is also imperative that both Iran and the US realise that prolonging the conflict will not benefit either nation and will only take a heavy toll in terms of casualties, apart from causing serious infrastructural losses.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Beyond binaries

The current US–Iran narrative risks reducing a complex geopolitical issue to a false binary. History shows that durable peace rarely emerges from coercion or hurried agreements. Instead, it requires patience, mutual respect, and a willingness to address deeper regional concerns. A forward-looking approach should prioritise diplomatic innovation and inclusive dialogue, ensuring that decisions reflect not only national interests but also global stability and humanitarian responsibility.
Shahim Maindala, Mangaluru

Tackle e-waste crisis

Apropos 'Rising e-waste, weak recycling choking Karnataka' (May 3), the growing accumulation of e-waste is concerning, especially given the near-total lack of organised recycling. The authorities concerned must focus on finding a lasting solution to the problem. Responsibility for sustainable recycling should lie with the manufacturers, and it would be advisable for them to collaborate in establishing a collective system of reuse and recycling. The government, for its part, should facilitate the setting up of such units by offering suitable incentives.
A K Shariff, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

In Bengal, a saffron wave has emerged. People hoped for change, but that the TMC would disappear in such a way was beyond our imagination.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Congress leader

The splinter in your eye is the best magnifying-glass available.

Theodor W Adorno

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Privacy and the encryption dilemma

India needs a legal framework that efficiently balances rights with the legitimate requirements of law enforcement

HARSHITA GUPTA AND RAM M SUMANT

The internet today has become intertwined with human existence, especially in communication. Nonetheless, the human need to secure communication privacy and the foundational nature of privacy pose a challenge to governments globally: the conflict between privacy and law enforcement.

The recent order passed by the Karnataka High Court, staying the ban on Proton Mail service, is a case in point. Proton Mail is a Swiss privacy-focused, end-to-end encryption-based email service designed in 2014. In 2025, the court ordered a ban on the service, citing non-compliance with Section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and instances of hoax bomb threats and obscene messages being sent to schools and women.

The Proton Mail case raises a wider question about the need for an encryption law in India that reconciles fundamental rights and the needs of law enforcement agencies. Section 84A of the IT Act empowers the central government to issue standards for "modes or methods" of encryption. However, no standards exist yet. Additionally, in 2015, a draft policy on encryption was put forth; however, no substantive measures were taken. The said policy attempted to establish a regime where the State would prescribe encryption algorithms and key sizes. However, this ran the risk of putting all encryption within the easy reach of the government and thus raising concerns about free speech.

Currently, the power to intercept telecommunication stems from the Telecommunications Act, 2023, which grants wide powers to detain, reroute, and intercept communications to any officer designated by the central government. It is extended to electronic means of communication by the IT Act, including the obligation on data handlers to take "reasonable security measures." The Act enlists public order, prevention of incitement of a cognisable offence, and investigation of offences as grounds for de-encryption. The power to grant the request for such interceptions vests with the State or central secretaries of the Home Ministry, giving the ministry absolute power without a judicial officer on the review committee.

The IT Act thus stands as the major regulation in this regard and authorises only the executive authorities to access encrypted data. The Act also grants wide discretion to bureaucrats, without safeguards. Beyond this, it is pertinent to account for cross-border communication, undertaken using various platforms established outside India. As seen in the Proton Mail case, compliance with Indian law remains an issue. Even though mutual assistance treaties exist, they seldom prove to be useful, given the complexity and onerous obligations on the parties.

Risks cannot justify overreach

These lacunae in the law act as a hurdle in achieving the Supreme Court's mandate prescribed in *Shreya Singhal* and *Justice K S Puttaswamy*. In *Shreya Singhal*, the Court held that standards of freedom of speech and expression on the internet are not to be examined against a dissimilarly relaxed standard under Article 19(1)(a) but are to be exclusively limited to the criteria in Article 19(2).

In *Puttaswamy*, the Court prescribed a four-pronged test for laws limiting privacy rights. One of these tests used the phrase "necessary in a democratic society for a legitimate aim", which has been argued to emphasise the need to reconcile privacy and legitimate State aims. Thus, even in the context of national security and public order concerns, these requirements must be met.

Though the right to privacy has been recognised by the Supreme Court, the right to encryption has not been categorically mentioned. A statutory framework recognising the same with narrowly tailored restrictions, in consonance with *Puttaswamy*, should be the first step. Furthermore, clarity on the use of ethical hacking to access encrypted information must be provided through the IT Act. Experts have suggested adopting technical solutions such as user franking, metadata analysis using machine learning technologies, and homomorphic encryption to ensure both the privacy of individuals and the security of society.

Encryption is not a novel phenomenon; ancient societies have been known to use codes and have privacy preferences. This is necessary for a democratic society, as encrypted communication technologies, apart from serving the right to privacy, also act as a vital tool for journalists, whistle-blowers, etc. The potential for harm due to encryption, particularly in law enforcement, should not become an excuse for State surveillance and abuse by private miscreants. Therefore, a reasoned, proportional, principle-oriented, and constitutionally sound approach is needed now.

(Harshita and Ram are final-year and third-year law students, respectively, at National Law University, Jodhpur)

When proof becomes punishment and compliance erases compassion

D JEEVAN KUMAR

In a haunting image that has now travelled across the country, a 55-year-old tribal man from Keonjhar, Jitu Munda, walked into a branch of Odisha Grameen Bank carrying the skeletal remains of his deceased sister. His purpose was tragically simple: to prove that she was dead so that he could withdraw the modest sum of Rs 19,300 left in her account.

It is difficult to imagine a more disturbing indictment of our governance systems. This was not merely an act of desperation; it was a silent, searing protest against a bureaucracy that had ceased to recognise human reality unless it was stamped, certified, and documented.

At one level, the bank's insistence on proof of death may appear procedurally justified. Financial institutions must guard against fraud and ensure compliance with regulatory norms. Yet, governance is not merely about rules; it is equally about judgment, discretion, and empathy. When procedures are applied without sensitivity to context, they cease to be instruments of order and become instruments of exclusion.

The tragedy in Keonjhar exposes a deeper structural problem: the widening gap between document-based governance and lived social reality. For millions in rural and tribal India, access to formal documentation—birth certificates, death certificates, and identity proofs—is neither automatic nor timely. Civil registration systems remain uneven, particularly in remote areas. In such contexts, the absence of a document does not imply the absence of truth. Yet, our administrative systems often behave as though they do.

This is what scholars have described as the "documentary bias" of the modern state—a tendency to recognise only what is formally recorded, while ignoring what is socially evident. In this case, the burden of proof was placed entirely on a grieving brother, who was compelled to perform an act that strips dignity not only from the individual but also from the system itself.

There is an additional irony. Over the past decade, India has made significant strides in financial inclusion. Millions of previously unbanked citizens have been brought into the formal financial system. Accounts have been opened, subsidies transferred, and digital platforms expanded. But access to banking, as this incident reminds us, does not automatically translate into usability.

For the rural poor, especially those unfamiliar with bureaucratic procedures, the system often remains opaque and intimidating. The processes governing death claims, nominee verification, and account closure are complex even for the educated urban citizen. For a tribal family with limited literacy and minimal institutional exposure, these can be insurmountable. Inclusion, in such cases, risks becoming symbolic rather than substantive.

Equally troubling is the apparent absence of administrative convergence. A simple verification by local authorities—a village official, a panchayat secretary, or a health worker—could have resolved the issue without trauma. Instead, the system operated in silos, leaving the citizen to navigate an unforgiving maze.

The social context cannot be ignored. Tribal communities in India have historically experienced marginalisation, geographical isolation, and a deep mistrust of formal institutions. Language barriers, cultural differences, and the absence of intermediary support structures often widen the gap between citizen and state. In such circumstances, rigid adherence to procedure without contextual understanding is not neutrality—it is neglect.

Predictably, the aftermath followed a familiar script. Once the incident went viral, the administration moved swiftly. Documents were facilitated, funds released, and additional benefits extended to the individual. A high-level inquiry was ordered, and calls for sensitivity were issued. While these responses are welcome, they also underscore a troubling pattern in our governance culture: action is often reactive, triggered by outrage rather than guided by systemic foresight.

The real question, therefore, is not whether justice was eventually delivered in this case, but whether the system has learned anything from it.

If this incident is to serve any purpose beyond momentary shock, it must prompt structural reform. Procedures for small-value claims must be simplified, particularly for vulnerable populations. Local verification mechanisms—through gram panchayats or community institutions—should be formally recognised as valid proof in such cases. Banking personnel must be trained not only in compliance but also in human-centred service delivery. Most importantly, different arms of the state must be better integrated so that citizens are not forced to shuttle between disconnected authorities.

At a deeper level, this episode invites a moral reflection. Public institutions exist not merely to enforce rules but to serve people. The test of governance lies not in how efficiently it processes files, but in how compassionately it responds to the most vulnerable.

Mahatma Gandhi's well-known talisman urges decision-makers to recall the face of the poorest and weakest person and ask whether their action will restore dignity and control over life. By that measure, the system failed Jitu Munda long before he entered the bank with a skeleton in his hands.

In the end, the image that lingers is not of administrative correction but of human anguish. It forces us to confront an uncomfortable truth: when proof becomes punishment, governance loses its soul.

(The writer is an Hon Professor at Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag, Karnataka)

A growing number of men across the continent say they are being promised jobs in Russia, only to be forced into the war

Kin of men who were missing after being recruited into Russia's military appealed to Kenya's Parliament for help in March. The authorities in at least nine countries have reported cases of men pushed into fighting for Russia under false pretenses. NYT

The 'death zone': How Russia is luring Africans to Ukraine

MATTHEW MPOKE BIGG, JOHN ELIGON AND ZIMASA MATIWANE

James Kamau Ndungu told only a few friends that he was heading to Russia. He told them he had been promised a job as a day labourer there. He was 32, unemployed in Kenya and needed the work. Last June, Kamau sent a photo to his friends from Istanbul Airport, saying he was in transit, one of the friends said. A few weeks later, he sent another photo. This time, he was wearing fatigues and holding a gun. In August, he wrote to say that he was in a trench in Ukraine. Things were bad. He asked for prayers.

It was the last anyone in Kenya heard from him.

A growing number of Africans are ending up on the front lines of Russia's war with Ukraine. Some go there willingly as mercenaries, but many more are like Kamau, young men lured by the promise of ordinary civilian jobs — from bodyguards to line cooks — only to be forced into joining Russian forces in battle.

A string of fly-by-night companies have been set up across the continent to recruit the men. The companies often appear as travel agencies or job placement firms and advertise on WhatsApp or Telegram.

The New York Times interviewed several victims and recruiters. The interviews suggest that the recruiters do not work directly with the defence ministry in Moscow. Contracts seen by the *Times* were in Russian, meaning the Africans could not read them.

Formal jobs in Africa are scarce, making the promise of work overseas a powerful magnet. And Africa has the fastest growing youth population on the planet. Many young people are unemployed, making the continent a prime target for the false recruitment of unwitting soldiers.

"Why has Russia taken my son?" Hannah Wambui Kamau wailed as she collapsed into the arms of relatives at Kamau's memorial on a muddy hillside outside Nairobi in March.

It is unclear how many men have been falsely recruited from Africa, though authorities in at least nine countries have reported cases. And in Kenya, the National Intelligence Service found that around 1,000 Kenyans had gone to Russia and ended up in Ukraine so far. Only 30 of them have returned alive. To curb the number of men being caught in the dragnet, the government said it had bolstered checks on young men leaving the country on international flights.

Okoiti Andrew Omtatah, a senator in Kenya, used a metaphor to describe the desperation created by the jobs crisis across Africa. "If a slave ship docked today in Mombasa with a banner saying, 'Slaves required in the West,'" he said, referring to the coastal city in Kenya, "you would not have space on that ship."

Russia's foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, acknowledged in March that foreigners were participating in what Moscow calls its special military operation in Ukraine but said that the government does not hire or recruit people to fight against their will. "Volunteers get there in full compliance with Russian legislation," he said in Moscow at a news conference.

Asked whether any Africans had gone to Russia on the basis of a promise of civilian work only to find themselves pressed into military service, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told the *Times* last week through his press service, "We are unaware of any such cases."

Ukraine's ambassador to South Africa, Olexander Scherba, accused Russia of taking advantage of young Africans looking for work. "I'm just amazed at how devious and how inhumane and imperialist people can be towards Africans who just need money," he said.

Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Botswana and Mali have all reported men being falsely recruited into the Russian army. Prosecutors in Kenya charged a man in February with recruiting 22 Kenyans to Russia. The same month, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke by telephone with Russian President Vladimir Putin about the recruitment of South Africans. A week later, 17 South Africans returned home from the front lines. Prosecutors are investigating a South African politician's involvement in misleading the men.

Vincent Odhiambo Awiti said he was recruited last year by an agent he met on the street in central Nairobi, Kenya's capital. The man told him he worked for the Global Faces Human Resources Agency and promised Awiti a job in a shop in Russia. He paid for him and four other men to fly to St Petersburg on July 14, Awiti said.

"We ended up buying the idea because I didn't have anything else to do," he said. "We thought that it was a great opportunity."

Awiti said he and the others were told to sign a contract to join the Russian military when they arrived. At first they refused, he said, but then he said they were told the only way to return to Kenya was to repay what had been spent to get them to Russia. None of the men had the money. They all signed the contract, he said.

The group was sent by train for four days of military training in a camp near the town of Shebekino, close to the front line south of Belgorod, Russia, Awiti said. He encountered an Egyptian recruit there who told him that he and the others were "dead men walking."

Awiti said he was sent into battle near the city of Vovchansk in Ukraine's Kharkiv province, the site of significant fighting last summer. His squad was instructed to cross two small rivers and a patch of open ground to get to a trench. His squad commander was killed before they reached the first river, he said.

"His head left his body," Awiti recalled. "They call it the death zone."

Awiti said he escaped with a Russian deserter who shot himself in the leg so he could be designated an invalid. He said he watched in horror as the Russian closed his eyes, aimed at the fleshy part of his lower leg and pulled the trigger twice.

Awiti said he was treated in Belgorod for wounds to his hand and hip from a drone attack and then shipped to a military hospital in Moscow. Doctors told him he would be sent back to the front once he recuperated, but he managed to get to the Kenyan Embassy and was put on a plane back to Nairobi. The embassy in Moscow did not reply to a request for comment.

Advertisements for Russian military service have flooded African social media over the past year, some promising monthly salaries of up to $3,000, lumpsum payments of $18,000 and even Russian citizenship after six months of service. Middlemen looking to cash in have turned these calls for Russian military service into business opportunities.

St Fortunes Travels and Logistics is a travel agency owned by Fortune Chimene Amaewhule, a Nigerian. Amaewhule said in an interview with the *Times* that he began to get requests last year from several African clients seeking help getting to Russia. They told him they heard there was money to be made with the Russian military, he said.

Last October, he posted an advertisement on Facebook: "Slots available for Drivers, Cooks, Logistic Workers & other positions to join the Russian military & get automatic citizenship with lots of benefits."

That same month, he posted a photo on Facebook of two people and wrote that they were Nigerians who had received $30,000 bonuses for joining Russia's military. "Don't forget recruitment is still ongoing," the post said.

A Nigerian friend who lived in Russia and had citizenship there was tasked with facilitating travel for the job seekers, Amaewhule said. But Amaewhule denied ever sending clients to Russia for military training and did not respond to questions about that post offering a $30,000 bonus.

The recruitment pipeline from Africa to Russia often appears to rely on personal connections like the one Amaewhule had with his friend in Russia.

The New York Times

Beyond quota, the missing feminine in Indian politics

J S SADANANDA JANEKERE

The recent failure of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha—falling short of the mandatory two-thirds majority despite a high-stakes vote—has once again stalled the operationalisation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Coupled with the intense friction over the Delimitation Bill, 2026, and the ongoing census, the national discourse is trapped in a numbers game. India is debating seat counts, population-to-representative ratios, and regional balances, yet it ignores the more fundamental "nature" of the House these women are meant to enter.

The deadlock is often framed as a "deficiency" in political consensus or a logistical hurdle of delimitation. However, it is time to shift the burden of proof away from the supposed lack of women's "winnability" and toward the deficiency of the political sphere itself.

The current political environment is culturally "stunted", operating on a narrow, aggressive subset of human nature. By treating politics as a theatre of muscle and money power, we have created a structural barrier that marginalises not just biological women but any individual who prioritises the feminine principle of nurturance over the masculine impulse of dominance.

In India's current electoral culture, the "successful" candidate is often a euphemism for the "masculine" candidate. The entry requirements—handling violence, navigating opaque financial networks, and surviving hyper-aggressive rhetoric—act as a filter. This forces biological women into a Faustian bargain: to survive in the well of the House, they must adopt the very *paurusheya* (masculine) traits that the spirit of representation seeks to balance. When a woman is forced to function as a "political man" to win, numerical representation becomes a hollow victory.

Indian tradition offers a profound critique of this imbalance through the concept of *ardhanarishwara*. Here, *stritva* (femininity) and *purushatva* (masculinity) are not merely biological labels but essential qualities (*gunas*) required for a balanced human existence. A leader is one who, like Shiva, can balance the strength of transformation with the grace of sustenance.

It is telling that many of India's most progressive gender laws—from property rights to anti-dowry provisions—were initiated and passed by male-dominated parliaments. This suggests that the capacity to protect women's interests is not a biological monopoly but an ethical one. It proves that when the "feminine principle" of justice and care is activated within a legislator, representation happens naturally, regardless of their sex.

The "logical clincher" for our democracy is this: if we succeed in transforming the nature of politics from a game of dominance to a platform of Dharma (balance), the presence of women will no longer require the intervention of a "forced quota". A political culture hospitable to the Stritva principle—one that values consensus, communal well-being, and social harmony—will naturally draw women into its fold as biological entities.

The most compelling evidence for this argument lies in India's education sector. Over the last two decades, as we moved toward ensuring a transparent and secure environment for examinations, we witnessed a remarkable shift: girls began to consistently outnumber and outperform boys in merit lists across the country. This systemic triumph was not achieved through quotas but by creating a "level playing field" where academic merit was protected from the external pressures of physical intimidation or social dominance. When the environment was made hospitable to discipline and intellect—qualities inherent in both natures—the "biological entry" of women took care of itself.

Our goal must move beyond the narrow corridors of legislative mandates. We do not just need more laws; we need a cultural shift that de-masculinises the public sphere. The current impasse in Parliament should be seen as an opportunity not just to redraw our constituencies but also to redraw our political consciousness. Until the "nature" of Indian politics changes, changing the faces in the seats will serve no meaningful purpose. The true measure of our progress will not be a 33% quota but a politics where the feminine principle is finally given its rightful, equal half.

(The writer is a retired professor of political science, Kuvempu University)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

Self-sufficiency, huge buffer stock aim of food policy

New Delhi, May 4
India is not only looking forward to achieving self-sufficiency in foodgrains but also to building up a huge buffer stock, Minister of State for Agriculture Shah Nawaz Khan stated in the Lok Sabha today. Intervening in the debate on the Budget demands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation during which members generally pleaded for a better deal for the farmer, Mr. Khan assured the House that the farmers and the rural people, who constituted 80 per cent of the population, would get their due share.

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

Ayodhya court drops trial against Advani, 20 others

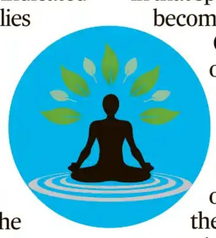
Lucknow, May 4
Concurring with the Allahabad High Court order on dropping of proceedings against Mr L K Advani and seven others, and widening the ambit of the charge of criminal conspiracy (crime number 198/92) to include 13 more accused, the special Ayodhya court today dropped the trial against 21 persons in the Babri Masjid demolition case. The ball in the politically sensitive case now lies in the State government's court, with the special judge ruling that cases against these persons can be revived through a fresh notification.

OASIS | NANDKISHORE

A life aligned with the infinite

The resolve to offer one's life in a spirit of voluntary service arises only when one understands that their presence is meant for the well-being of others. For the sake of interpersonal communication and personal remembrance/awareness, one may call it 'first-degree liberation'. This clarity is not merely intellectual—it is experiential. It matures when one recognises a profound truth: that the culmination of knowing is the recognition of the unknown—so deeply unknown that one is unaware even of what remains unknown. In this recognition, one becomes free from rigid belief.

Freedom from belief is not emptiness; it is openness and trust in oneness. It is a state of higher awareness that nourishes the body, mind, and inner being, because belief, when held unconsciously, can obstruct both learning and realisation. Across ages, sages have indicated that the essence of existence lies in self-realisation—abiding in self-awareness. At the present stage of evolution of consciousness in humans, living with awareness appears to be the most authentic expression of life's purpose for those who seek the supreme truth with sincerity.



There is a distinction between what we know we do not know and what lies beyond even our imagination. The former invites inquiry; the latter invites humility. This humility becomes the ground for inner growth. At this stage of awakening, openness becomes the greatest responsibility, and living in that spirit through one's person becomes the utmost discipline.

Once there is recognition of oneself as a responsible participant in the cosmic order, life aligns with eternal values—love, *dharma*, truth, nonviolence, and a vision of timeless beauty. When these values guide our actions, consciousness is no longer entangled in cravings for what is fleeting and finite. Instead, these values act as a living bridge between our true nature (*swa-bhaav*) and our apparent individuality, reflected through nature (*prakriti*). Our true nature is boundless and beyond time. And that which is infinite cannot be incomplete. When the intellect is refined and purified through right understanding, an inner freedom is experienced that is not dependent on external conditions. This is the state of living liberation—*Jeevan Mukta*.

To abide in this state is true wisdom in action. Through such a being, something greater begins to express itself. Whether we call it 'divinity' or 'wisdom' is our choice, but it manifests as clarity, compassion, and harmony. And this lands us in subtle wonderment: whether there truly is a difference between divinity and wisdom, or are these simply two expressions pointing towards the same living truth.

Renukaswamy murder : SC seeks report on trial against Darshan, others

'He is denied basic amenities provided to undertrial prisoners'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Bengaluru court trying actor Darshan and others in Renukaswamy murder case to furnish a status report of the trial.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi issued notice on a writ petition filed by Darshan seeking bail.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Darshan, submitted that the Supreme Court cancelled the bail on August 14, 2025 and the petitioner has cumulatively spent one year in jail.

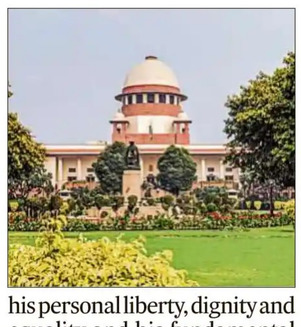
As the apex court had earlier said he should not get five-star treatment in jail, he was denied basic amenities otherwise provided to an undertrial prisoner, the counsel said.

After a brief hearing, the bench issued notice to the Karnataka government and directed its registry to call for report from the Bengaluru court, as regards the status of the sessions case.

"We would like to know how many witnesses have been examined and how many remained to be examined. We would also like to know how much time it would take to complete the trial, and whether basic amenities provided to an undertrial prisoner is made available to him or not," the bench said. The court sought the report in one week and fixed the matter for consideration thereafter.

The plea by Darshan contended that since the judgment passed by this court in August 2025, almost eight months have elapsed wherein the petitioner has been in judicial custody and has undergone custody for a total period of almost one year till date.

"There are a total of 262 witness, out of which only 10 witnesses have been examined and it is obvious that the trial would take a very long time to complete and the petitioner would be subjected to a long incarceration thus depriving



his personal liberty, dignity and equality and his fundamental rights under Articles 14 and 21," it contended.

The plea said that since the trial is likely to be a prolonged one, his incarceration, pending entire trial, will have an irreparably adverse impact on his livelihood and his right to carry on his trade and profession.

The plea said media channels in Bengaluru have been recreating court proceedings and the alleged crime scene by using graphics and AI-prompted animations and holding panel discussions weighing the evidence recorded by the trial court.

"The actions of the media channels infringe upon his fundamental right to fair trial under Article 21 of the Constitution, as they blur the lines between reportage and adjudication, potentially influencing witnesses," it said.

"Since being under judicial custody, the petitioner is being discriminated vis-a-vis other prisoners as he has not been allowed to receive/purchase food, clothing and bedding from private sources as permitted under the Karnataka Prison Act, 1963. These actions are in gross violation, not only of the jail manual, rules and regulations governing the conduct of jail authorities, but are inhuman and violate Article 21," it said.

Cong wins state bypolls, survives SDPI scare

Bypolls, from Page 1

In contrast, Bagalkot gave Congress comfort. Infighting among the late Meti's children for the ticket ended in a consensus candidate after Siddaramaiah's early intervention. Umesh Meti, political novice and son of the late H Y Meti, won by 22,867 votes against BJP's Veeranna Charanthimath, nearly four times his father's 5,878-vote margin in 2023.

The sympathy factor, PWD minister and Ahinda leader Satish Jarkiholi's election management in Bagalkot, Siddaramaiah's popularity, and the five guarantees, helped Congress win. Also, the chief minister and his Cabinet colleagues camping in Bagalkot for over 10 days, yielded result.

'SDPI caused damage'

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar hailed the guarantee schemes, while flagging the low-margin win in Davangere saying, "SDPI caused damage."

For the BJP, which is also grappling with a leadership issue, a united front still wasn't enough to breach Congress bastions.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka claimed that the ruling party always had an edge, and both seats were previously held by the Congress. "The BJP gave a tough fight."

Also, allegations of a tacit understanding between the Shamanur family and former chief minister B S Yediyurappa gained traction after the BJP fielded a non-Lingayat and "weak" candidate, which could polarise Lingayat votes. In the 2024 Parliament elections, Shamanur Shivashankarappa had openly endorsed fellow Lingayat Yediyurappa's son B Y Raghavendra for Shivamogga. Yet in the bypoll, BJP's Srinivas secured 63,870 votes, while Ajay Kumar, a Lingayat and the party's defeated candidate from 2023, polled only 56,410 votes.

Vijay tsunami ends six decades of Dravidian duopoly

Vijay, From Page 1

NTR rode a wave of Atma Gauravam (self-respect), but Vijay led a silent wave by allowing Gen Z, women and young people to campaign for him in the run-up to the polls. Vijay's spectacular victory is also a classic case of challenging traditional ways of campaigning.

If it was students who rallied behind the DMK in 1967, it was Gen Z and women across all ages who stood behind Vijay in scripting history; he has effectively ended the uninterrupted 60-year run of the DMK and its offshoot, the AIADMK.

This victory signifies the yearning for change among the people of Tamil Nadu, who had grown fatigued with the DMK and the AIADMK after they ruled the state alternately since 1967.

Though the TVK could not reach the magic number on its own — DMK allies who won about 14 seats are likely to help him — a 'Vijay tsunami' swept through the state. The waves were so intense that incumbent Chief Minister M K Stalin lost to his former DMK colleague, V S Babu, in Kolathur, and more than 30 of his Cabinet colleagues lost to TVK nominees, most of them political novices.

A few exceptions include Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who scraped through in Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni. While the DMK was on course to occupy the Opposition benches by winning or leading in 60 seats, the AIADMK won or led in 47 seats.

Whether Udhayanidhi will be the Leader of the Opposition, making the equations in the Assembly interesting, remains to be seen; the DMK scion and Vijay were friends once but turned rivals in the past few years.

From an auto driver-turned-entrepreneur to a salon worker, commoners assumed power by defeating entrenched politicians in this election, a phenomenon last witnessed in 1967 when Annadurai sent the Congress packing.

The sound of 'Whistle' — TVK's election symbol — echoed across the length and breadth of Tamil Nadu, with party candidates winning from Chennai and the northern districts to Coimbatore, Dindigul, Madurai, Thoothukudi and southernmost Kanyakumari.

Like the DMK's Rising Sun and Annadurai in 1967, it was only Vijay and the Whistle in this election; nothing else, including candidates, mattered.

Vijay demolished the vote bank of every political party, especially the DMK and the AIADMK, to sweep the state. His party performed spectacularly well in the Greater Chennai region, and Vijay's decision to contest from Perambur seems to have had significant ripple effects.

Even MGR couldn't break the DMK's stranglehold over Chennai in his debut elections as AIADMK chief, and it took about two decades of active politics for J Jayalalithaa to make inroads into the DMK's citadel. Her party first won seven of the 14 seats in 2006 and 14 of the 16 seats in the 2011 elections.

SC flags rise in acid attacks, asks Centre to enhance punishment

Acid attacks, From Page 1

The court suggested that the government examine the possibility of reversing this onus in acid attack cases, besides attaching the assets of convicts to compensate victims. It also stressed the need for stricter regulation on the sale of acid in the open market.

The bench further directed that, pending formal amendment, victims who are forcibly made to consume acid or suffer internal injuries — even without external disfigurement — would be included within the definition of acid attack victims under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

This clarification will be deemed to have been part of the Act from its inception in 2016. The court said it would appreciate it if the concerned ministry formally notifies this deemed amendment. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the bench that the nodal ministry has already proposed changes to the schedule of the 2016 Act.

"Pending suitable amendment... it is directed that for all intents and purposes, especially to give effect to the 2016 Act, acid attack victims shall also include the victims to whom acid has been administered and shall include those who have suffered internal injuries even if there is no outer disfigurement," the bench ordered. The court scheduled the matter for further hearing after two weeks.

Hindutva wave, discontent drown TMC

Hindutva wave, From Page 1

"All Hindus have united in favour of Narendra Modi," said Suvendu, the BJP's de facto chief ministerial candidate, as early counting trends showed the party moving decisively ahead of the TMC. "It is significant that Hindus cut across linguistic barriers to vote for the BJP. Muslims, too, did not vote en masse for the TMC as they had in the past – some backed pro-Muslim parties, and some voted for us."

Mamata sought to project Bangaliyana as an antidote to the BJP's aggressive Hindutva. Her party framed the alleged harassment of Bengali-speaking migrant workers from West Bengal in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi as an assault on the language and identity of the people of the state.

It continued to brand the BJP as a party of outsiders, highlighting the cultural disconnect of the saffron stalwarts who came to campaign during the elections in West Bengal. This had worked for the TMC in 2021, but not this time. To make sure that the discontent among the voters does not turn into a wave against the TMC, Mamata projected herself and her party, as well as West Bengal and its people as a 'victim' of the 'unfair denial of central funds' for several schemes and projects, unfair use of the central agencies and unfair bias of the EC and the central paramilitary forces deployed to conduct the polls.

"With the help of the central forces, they are harassing and torturing the TMC workers. Our offices have been vandalised," the TMC supremo said, reiterating her allegation that voter list revision exercises were "purposefully done to target seats where we were strong".

Mamata leaned on welfare schemes to build a loyal "labharthi" base that helped blunt anti-incumbency. The flagship 'Lakshmir Bhandar" – with payouts raised to Rs 1,500 for general category women and Rs 1,700 for SC/ST women – built a loyal support base among women.

Though the BJP initially derided such schemes as doles masking economic failure, it later promised similar schemes with higher payout rates, obviously to make a dent in the TMC's support base among the women. The BJP also roped in the mother of the victim of the rape and murder at the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, and fielded her as its candidate in Panihati.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. Dy 63157 OF 2025
WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

MANJUNATHA. Y ....Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF KARNATAKA AND OTHERS ....Respondent(s)

To,

1. MS MOHAN KUMAR, SON OF LATE KN SRINIVAS GUPTA, AGED ABOUT 63 YEARS R/O NO.9, 100 FEET ROAD, BANASHANKARI 2ND STAGE, 4TH BLOCK, BENGALURU-560 085. **PID: 99380/2026 FOR R[3] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

2. K. S SURENDRA BABU, SON OF LATE K N SRINIVAS GUPTA, AGED ABOUT 65YEARS R/O NO.9, 100 FEET ROAD, BANASHANKARI 2ND STAGE, 4TH BLOCK, BENGALURU-560 085. **PID: 99381/2026 FOR R[4] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

3. KS VISHWAKIRAN, SON OF LATE K N SRINIVAS GUPTA, AGED ABOUT 59 YEARS R/O NO.9, 100 FEET ROAD, BANASHANKARI 2ND STAGE, 4TH BLOCK, BENGALURU-560 085. **PID: 99382/2026 FOR R[5] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

4. KS SUBBARAJU, SON OF LATE K N SRINIVAS GUPTA, AGED ABOUT 60 YEARS, R/O NO.9, 100 FEET ROAD, BANASHANKARI 2ND STAGE, 4TH BLOCK, BENGALURU-560 085. **PID: 99383/2026 FOR R[6] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

5. A MUDLAPPA, SON OF LATE VENKATARAMAN, R/O AT 37/55, SURVEYOR ROAD, BASAVANAGUDI, BENGALURU -560004. **PID: 99384/2026 FOR R[11] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

6. CHANDRAN, SON OF LATE NANJUNDAPPA, AGED ABOUT 71 YEARS. R/O ULLALA VILLAGE, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU-560 091. **PID: 99385/2026 FOR R[24] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

7. NARASAPPA, SON OF LATE BASAPPA, AGED ABOUT 61 YEARS. R/O ULLALA VILLAGE, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU-560 091. **PID: 99386/2026 FOR R[25] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

8. GANGARAJU, SON OF NAGARAJU, AGED ABOUT 61 YEARS. R/O ULLALA VILLAGE, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU-560 091. **PID: 99387/2026 FOR R[26] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

9. MUDDUHONNAIAH, SON OF JAYANNA, AGED ABOUT 70 YEARS. R/O ULLALA VILLAGE, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU- 560 091. **PID: 99388/2026 FOR R[27] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

10. CHANDRAPPA, SON OF LATE RAJAPPA, AGED ABOUT 50 YEARS. R/O ULLALA VILLAGE, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU-560 091. **PID: 99389/2026 FOR R[28] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

11. KARNATAKA INSTITUTE OF LEATHER TECHNOLOGY, BY ITS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER KADUGONDANAHALLI, ARABIC COLLEGE POST, BENGALURU-560 045. **PID: 99390/2026 FOR R[32] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

12. Y. NAGARAJ, SON OF LATE. YELLAPPA SINCE DECEASED BY HIS LR DR. N. AJAY SON OF LATE. Y. NAGARAJ AGED ABOUT 41 YEARS, R/AT NO.24, 2ND CROSS, 2ND MAIN, VIJAYANAGARA, BENGALURU-560 040. **PID: 99391/2026 FOR R[36] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

13. B.V.VENKATALAKSHMAMMA, DAUGHTER OF LATE VENKATARAMAIAH, AGED ABOUT 68 YEARS. NO.33, 12TH 'E' CROSS, AGRAHARA DASARAHALLI, MAGADI ROAD, BENGALURU-560079. **PID: 99392/2026 FOR R[45] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

14. B.V. PARVATHAMMA, DAUGHTER OF LATE VENKATARAMAIAH, AGED ABOUT 75 YEARS. R/O NO.33, 12TH 'E' CROSS, AGRAHARA DASARAHALLI, MAGADI ROAD, BENGALURU-560079. **PID: 99393/2026 FOR R[46] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

15. B.V. CHANDAMMA, DAUGHTER OF LATE VENKATARAMAIAH, AGED ABOUT 58 YEARS. R/O NO.33, 12TH 'E' CROSS, AGRAHARA DASARAHALLI, MAGADI ROAD, BENGALURU-560079. **PID: 99394/2026 FOR R[47] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

16. B.V. MANJULA, DAUGHTER OF LATE VENKATARAMAIAH, AGED ABOUT 58 YEARS. R/O NO.33, 12TH 'E' CROSS, AGRAHARA DASARAHALLI, MAGADI ROAD, BENGALURU-560079. **PID: 99395/2026 FOR R[48] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

17. H DAYAKAR, SON OF LATE HANUMAIAH, AGED ABOUT 72 YEARS.R/O ULLALU VILLAGE, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK-560 023. **PID: 99396/2026 FOR R[52] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

18. H JANARDHAN, SON OF LATE HANUMAIAH, AGED ABOUT 65 YEARS. R/O ULLALU VILLAGE, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK-560 023. **PID: 99397/2026 FOR R[53] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

19. H RAMACHANDRA, SON OF LATE HANUMAIAH, AGED ABOUT 63 YEARS. R/O ULLALU VILLAGE, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK-560 023. **PID: 99398/2026 FOR R[54] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

20. CHANDRASHEKAR, SON OF LATE HANUMAIAH, AGED ABOUT 55 YEARS R/O ULLALU VILLAGE, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU A) NORTH TALUK-560023. **PID: 99399/2026 FOR R[55] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

21. D PRAKASH, SON OF LATE DASAPPA, AGED ABOUT 35 YEARS. R/O NO.20, 'E' STREET, 2ND CROSS, GOPALAPURA, MAGADI ROAD, BENGALURU -560 023. **PID: 99400/2026 FOR R[62] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

22. SHASHIKALA, DAUGHTER OF LATE NAGARAJU, AGED ABOUT 44 YEAR R/AT NO.24, 2ND CROSS, 2ND MAIN, HOSAHALLI COLONY, NEAR PLAGUE MARAMMA TEMPLE, VIJAYANAGAR, BENGALURE-560 040. **PID: 99401/2026 FOR R[72] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

23. VEDHA, DAUGHTER OF LATE Y. NAGARAJU, AGED ABOUT 49 YEARS R/AT NO.24, 2ND CROSS, 2ND MAIN, HOSAHALLI COLONY, NEAR PLAGUE MARAMMA TEMPLE, VIJAYANAGAR, BENGALURE-560 040. **PID: 99402/2026 FOR R[73] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

24. CHAMPA, DAUGHTER OF LATE Y.NAGARAJU, AGED ABOUT 47 YEARS R/AT NO.24, 2ND CROSS, 2ND MAIN, HOSAHALLI COLONY, NEAR PLAGUE MARAMMA TEMPLE, VIJAYANAGAR, BENGALURE-560 04. **PID: 99403/2026 FOR R[74] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

25. N AJAY SON OF LATE Y. NAGARAJ, AGED ABOUT 41 YEARS R/AT NO.24, 2ND CROSS, 2ND MAIN, HOSAHALLI COLONY, NEAR PLAGUE MARAMMA TEMPLE, VIJAYANAGAR, BENGALURE-560 040. **PID: 99404/2026 FOR R[75] IN DIARY NO. 63157/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

WHEREAS the Petition for Diary to Appeal with application for PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Ms. SMRITI CHURIWAL, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 07th January, 2026, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

1. Issue notice on the special leave petition(s) as well as on the application for condonation of delay.

2. Tag with SLP(C) Nos.30025-30028/2024."

AND, WHEREAS, the matter was listed for hearing before this Court on 09th April, 2026 along with the other connected matters, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"1. Mr. Kapil Sibal, learned senior counsel appearing for the State of Karnataka in SLP(C) No. 28248-28258/2024, submits that documents dating back to 1890 have since been traced which would prove the character of the lands in dispute as 'gomal'. According to him, these documents need to be placed on record since they have a material bearing on the special leave petitions under consideration.

2. Let such additional documents be placed on record by filing an appropriate application within three weeks.

3. Exception to such application may be taken by the petitioners within a week thereafter.

4. We have heard Mr. Debal Banerji, learned senior counsel appearing for K.S. Subbaraju respondent No.7 in SLP (C) No. 30028/2024 in support of the prayer that the said petition should be dismissed.

5. Considering the submissions made by Mr. Sibal recorded above that the Government has since traced old records to the effect that disputed lands are gomal', we are of the considered opinion that the application seeking dismissal of SLP (C) No. 30028/2024 ought to be heard along with the special leave petitions.

6. Re-list the special leave petitions and all connected applications on **21st May, 2026 at 12:00 noon.**

7. Interim order, passed earlier, shall continue till the next date of hearing.

8. The latest office report has been read. Some of the respondents are yet to be served.

9. Fresh steps be taken by the State of Karnataka to effect service through paper publication, within two weeks from date. Notice may be published in one English daily newspaper, viz. Deccan Herald and one Kannada newspaper, viz. Kannada Prabha.

10. Once the paper publications are made, the related documents be filed before the Registry a week prior to the returnable date. Put up an appropriate office report."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition along with SLP(C) No. 30025-30028/2024 will be posted for hearing before this Court on 21st May, 2026 at 10.30 O' Clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as may be convenient to the Court and show cause to the court as to why condonation of delay in filing be not condoned and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 within 30 days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated: 15th April, 2026

Copy to :- 1 Ms. Smriti Churiwal (adv.), 2. Mr. Deepak Prakash (adv.), 3. Mr. Sanchit Garga (adv.), 4. M/s. Nuli & Nuli (adv.)

Note: * Counsel for the State of Karnataka is required to file affidavit of Paper Publication in respect of aforementioned respondents along with the proof of service well before next date of Listing i.e. 21.05.2026.

Sd/-

DIPR/CP/495/Zen/2026-27 **ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA

No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-2:Tender-06:2026-27 Dated:- 04.05.2026

SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work:- Two cover System :- Head of Account 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintenance :- (1) IMPROVEMENTS AND ASPHALTING OF ROAD FROM KALKERE CONNECTING MALLENAHALLI CROSS VIA BALLALASAMUDRA, ALAGHATTA, MALLENAHALLI LINK FROM ALAGHATTA CONNECTING VADDARAHATTI CH 0.00 TO 2.55 KM (KADUR TALUK BORDER) IN HOSADURGA TALUK (W.I. 34940)/call-4

Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-120.00

Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 08-05-2026 Time: 17.30

Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 11-05-2026 Time: 16.00

Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 12-05-2026 Time: 16.15

Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 14-05-2026 Time: 11.00

Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 91 9240214000 and 91 9240214001

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 85/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

VTU gets 10 applications for new engg colleges

BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite engineering admissions losing demand, with vacant seats increasing every year, the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has received 10 applications from private managements to start new colleges for the 2026-27 academic year.

Of the ten applications, six are from Bengaluru, one each from Doddaballapur in Bengaluru Rural, Chikkodi in Belagavi, Hubballi and Vijayapura. Each college has sought an intake of 120 seats.

Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar said he was surprised by the applications.

"I do not know why people are setting up new engineering colleges. I was surprised to know that even this year there are some applications before the VTU," he said.

"Every year several private engineering colleges are surrendering seats to the Karnataka Examinations Authority as they were unable to fill the seats on their own," he added.

Though admissions have fallen and seats remain vacant, Karnataka has seen 25 new engineering colleges open in the last five years, with only one shutting down.

VTU Vice Chancellor Vidyashankar S called this a positive trend. "When the industry is talking about job threats due to Artificial Intelligence, the number of new colleges coming up shows a positive sign," he said. "In the last four years we used to get four to five applications to set up new colleges, but this year the number has doubled. This clearly says that we need engineers, with updated skills and knowledge for current industry demands," he added.

In 2025, over 15,000 engineering seats went vacant, of which 9,000 were from Computer Science and allied subjects.

BJP breaches Bengal; TN gets a Jana Nayagan

BJP breaches, from Page 1

Stalin's defeat — including the loss of his own seat — raises the prospect of a succession churn within the DMK, while the AIADMK, pushed to third place, stares at an existential crisis.

Such was the intensity of the TVK blitzkrieg that Stalin lost from his party bastion of Kolathur. Just short of the halfway mark, Vijay is now poised to stake claim to power with support from smaller allies.

The anti-incumbency wave extended beyond Bengal and Tamil Nadu. In Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan's government was decisively voted out. The mandate offers the Congress a lifeline to consolidate its position within the I.N.D.I.A bloc as key allies falter.

In Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma returned with an expanded mandate, with the BJP and its allies gaining ground across the state. The imprint of religious polarisation and delimitation was visible, with a significant share of Congress winners coming from minority communities. The party also suffered a symbolic setback as Gaurav Gogoi lost his family stronghold of Jorhat.

In Puducherry, delays in Congress–DMK alliance talks, coupled with TVK's entry, appear to have aided Rangaswamy, who is set to return as chief minister for a record fifth term.

For the BJP, the Bengal victory offers crucial political momentum at a time of mounting challenges — from an emboldened Opposition that recently stalled its delimitation push to external economic pressures linked to the West Asia crisis. The win not only reshapes Bengal's political landscape but also strengthens the party's national footing ahead of future electoral battles.

The breakthrough ranks among the BJP's most significant victories since Narendra Modi came to power in 2014 — marking both a geographic and ideological expansion into a region long resistant to its politics.

For the RSS, the BJP's ideological mentor, the victory carries symbolic weight in a state that helped shape nationalist thought through figures like Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, whose Anand Math popularised the idea of 'Bharat Mata'.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No(s) 28248-28258 OF 2024
WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS .....Petitioner(s)
VERSUS
KS SURENDRA BABU AND OTHERS ... Respondent(s)

To.

1. KS SURENDRA BABU S/O LATE K N SRINIVASA GUPTA, R/AT NO.9, 100 FEET ROAD, BANASHANKARI, 2ND STAGE, 4TH BLOCK, BENGALURU 560085, KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98486/2026 FOR R[1] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28248/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28253/2024, SLP(C) NO.28254/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
2. RV BHASKAR S/O LATE RAJA VENKATARAMANA SHETTY, RESIDING AT NO.228, MUDDINAPALYA MAIN ROAD, OPP.GOVT SCHOOL, BENGALURU-560091. KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98487/2026 FOR R[4] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28248/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
3. RV SUDHIR S/O LATE RAJA VENKATARAMANA SHETTY, RESIDING AT NO.228, MUDDINAPALYA MAIN ROAD, OPP.GOVT SCHOOL, BENGALURU-560091. KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98488/2026 FOR R[5] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28248/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
4. RV GIRIDHAR S/O LATE RAJA VENKATARAMANA SHETTY,, RESIDING AT NO.228, MUDDINAPALYA MAIN ROAD, OPP.GOVT SCHOOL, BENGALURU-560091. KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98489/2026 FOR R[6] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28248/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
5. RV SHANKAR S/O LATE RAJA VENKATARAMANA SHETTY,, RESIDING AT NO.228, MUDDINAPALYA MAIN ROAD, OPP.GOVT SCHOOL, BENGALURU-560091. KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98490/2026 FOR R[7] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28248/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
6. A. MUDALAPPA S/O LATE RAJA VENKATARAMANAPPA,, RESIDING AT NO.228, MUDDINAPALYA MAIN ROAD, OPP.GOVT SCHOOL, BENGALURU-560091., KARNATAKA	**PID: 98491/2026 FOR R[8] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28248/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
7. RUDRA MURTHY S/O H S SADASHIVAIAH, R/O ULLALU UPA NAGARA, ULLALU, YESHWANTHPUR HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK-560091. KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98492/2026 FOR R[21] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28248/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28256/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
8. CHANDRAN S/O LATE NANJUNDAPPA, R/O ULLALU UPA NAGARA, ULLALU, YESHWANTHPUR HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK KARNATAKA -560091.	**PID: 98493/2026 FOR R[22] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28248/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28256/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
9. NARASAPPA S/O BASAPPA, R/O ULLALU UPA NAGARA, ULLALU, YESHWANTHPUR HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK KARNATAKA -560091.	**PID: 98494/2026 FOR R[23] IN IN SLP(C) NO.28248/2024, SLP(C) NO.28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024, SLP(C) NO.28256/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
10. GANGARAJU S/O NAGARAJU,, R/O ULLALU UPA NAGARA, ULLALU, YESHWANTHPUR HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK KARNATAKA-560091.	**PID: 98495/2026 FOR R[24] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28248/2024, SLP(C) NO.28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28256/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
11. MUDDUHANONNAIAH S/O JAYANNA, R/O ULLALU UPA NAGARA, ULLALU, YESHWANTHPUR HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK KARNATAKA – 560091.	**PID: 98496/2026 FOR R[25] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28248/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28256/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
12. CHANDRAPPA S/O LATE RAJAPPA, R/O ULLALU UPA NAGARA, ULLALU, YESHWANTHPUR HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA-560091.	**PID: 98497/2026 FOR R[26] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28248/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28256/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
13. K S VISHWAKIRAN, S/O LATE K N SRINIVASA GUPTA, R/AT NO.9, 100 FEET ROAD, BANASHANAKRI 2ND STAGE, 4 TH BLOCK, BENGALURU-560085. KARNATAKA	**PID: 98498/2026 FOR R[27] IN IN SLP(C) NO.28248/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28253/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28254/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
14. R SHOBHA, D/O Y. RAMAKRISHNA, W/O M.C. KESHAVAMURTHY, R/A NO.11/1, 1ST MAIN, 1ST CROSS, VALMIKINAGAR, MYSORE ROAD, BANGALORE-560 026. KARNATAKA.	**PID: 98499/2026 FOR R[34] IN IN SLP(C) NO.28249/2024, SLP(C) NO.28255/ 2024SLP(C) NO.28248- 28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
15. H.DAYAKAR S/O LATE HANUMAIAH, R/T ULLALU VILLAGE YESWANTHAPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK KARNATAKA -560 056.	**PID: 98500/2026 FOR R[45] IN IN SLP(C) NO.28249/2024, SLP(C) NO.28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28251/2024, SLP(C) NO.28252/2024, SLP(C) NO.28257/ 2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
16. H JANARDHAN S/O LATE HANUMAIAH, R/T ULLALU VILLAGE YESWANTHAPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK, DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA-560 056.	**PID: 98501/2026 FOR R[46] IN IN SLP(C) NO.28249/2024, SLP(C) NO.28250/2024, SLP(C) NO.28251/2024, SLP(C) NO.28252/2024, SLP(C) NO.28257/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
17. H. RAMCHANDRA S/O LATE HANUMAIAH, R/T ULLALU VILLAGE YESWANTHAPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK DISTRICT-BANGALORE, KARNATAKA-560 056.	**PID: 98502/2026 FOR R[47] IN IN SLP(C) NO.28249/2024, SLP(C) NO.28250/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28251/2024, SLP(C) NO.28252/2024, SLP(C) NO.28257/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
18. H CHANDRASHEKAR S/O LATE HANUMAIAH, R/T ULLALU VILLAGE YESWANTHAPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK DISTRICT-BANGALORE, KARNATAKA -560056.	**PID: 98503/2026 FOR R[48] IN IN SLP(C) NO.28249/2024, SLP(C) NO.28250/2024, SLP(C) NO.28251/2024, SLP(C) NO.28252/2024, SLP(C) NO.28257/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
19. SAROJAMMA W/O LATE KN SRINIVASA GUPTA, R/AT NO.9, 100 FEET ROAD, BANASHANKARI 2 ND STAGE, 4TH BLOCK BANGALORE KARNATAKA - 560083	**PID: 98504/2026 FOR R[67] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28250/2024, SLP(C) NO.28254/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
20. MS MOHAN KUMAR S/O LATE K.N. SRINIVASA GUPTA,, R/AT NO.9, 100 FEET ROAD, BANASHANKARI 2ND STAGE, 4TH BLOCK, BENGALURU KARNATAKA - 560085.	**PID: 98505/2026 FOR R[68] IN IN SLP(C) NO.28250/2024, SLP(C) NO.28254/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
21. BHASKAR R V S/O LATE VENKATA CHALAPATHI,, RESIDING AT NO.MUDDENAPALYA VILLAGE VISHWANTANEEDAM POST, YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK DISTRICT-BANGALORE, KARNATAKA 560091.	**PID: 98506/2026 FOR R[69] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28251/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28252/2024, SLP(C) NO.28257/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
22. SHRIDHAR R.V. S/O LATE VENKATA CHALAPATHI, RESIDING AT NO.MUDDENAPALYA VILLAGE VISHWANTANEEDAM POST YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI BENGALURU NORTH TALUK DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA-560091.	**PID: 98507/2026 FOR R[70] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28251/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28252/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28257/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
23. LAKSHMINARASAMMA, W/O SHIVANNA R/AT NO. 24, 2ND CROSS, 2ND MAIN, VIJAYANAGAR, BENGALURU-560 040., DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA	**PID: 98508/2026 FOR R[75] IN IN SLP(C) NO.28251/2024, SLP(C) NO.28252/2024, SLP(C) NO.28257/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
24. B V RATHNAMMA D/O LATE VENAKTARAMAIAH,R/AT NO 33, 12TH E CROSS, MAGADI ROAD, DISTRICT-BANGALORE, KARNATAKA – 560023	**PID: 98509/2026 FOR R[76] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28251/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28252/2024, SLP(C) NO.28257/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
25. H CHANDRAKEERTHI, S/O LATE HANUMAIAH R/A ULLAL VILLAGE YESWANTHPURA HOBLI BENGALURU NORTH TALUK BENGALURU - 560 110., DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA	**PID: 98510/2026 FOR R[79] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28251/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28252/2024, SLP(C) NO. 28257/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
26. SOWMYA D/O LATE MAHADEVAMMA,, R/A ULLAL VILLAGE, YESHWANTHAPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK, BENGALURU-560 110., DISTRICT-BANGALORE, KARNATAKA	**PID: 98511/2026 FOR R[93] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28252/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
27. NARAYANASWAMY S/O LATE MAHADEVAMMA,, R/A ULLAL VILLAGE, YESHWANTHAPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK, BENGALURU-560 110., DISTRICT-BANGALORE, KARNATAKA	**PID: 98512/2026 FOR R[94] IN IN SLP(C) NO.28252/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
28. MANJUNATH S/O LATE VENKATAMMA,, R/A ULLAL VILLAGE, YESHWANTHAPURA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK, BENGALURU DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA -560 110	**PID: 98513/2026 FOR R[95] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28252/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
29. SHASHIKALA D/O LATE NAGARAJ,, NO.24 2ND CROSS, 2ND MAIN HOSAHALLI COLONY, NEAR PLAGUE MARAMMA TEMPLE, VIJAYANAGAR, BENGALURU KARNATAKA -560 040.	**PID: 98514/2026 FOR R[96] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28252/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
30. VEDHA D/O LATE NAGARAJ,, NO.24 2ND CROSS, 2ND MAIN HOSAHALLI COLONY, NEAR PLAGUE MARAMMA TEMPLE, VIJAYANAGAR, BENGALURU DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA - 560 040.	**PID: 98515/2026 FOR R[97] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28252/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
31. CHAMPA D/O LATE NAGARAJ, NO.24 2ND CROSS, 2ND MAIN HOSAHALLI COLONY, NEAR PLAGUE MARAMMA TEMPLE, VIJAYANAGAR, BENGALURU DISTRICT-BANGALORE, KARNATAKA - 560 040	**PID: 98516/2026 FOR R[98] IN IN SLP(C) NO.28252/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
32. KARNATAKA INSTITUTE OF LEATHER TECHNOLOGY, BY ITS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, KADUGONDANAHALLI, ARABIC COLLEGE POST, BANGALORE KARNATAKA – 560045	**PID: 98517/2026 FOR R[108] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28255/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
33. MANGALAGOWRI W/O LATE MUNNINARASAIAH,, R/AT G2, FLAT NO. 62/19, 2 ND MAIN ROAD, PRASHANTHNAGAR, BENGALURU DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA – 560079.	**PID: 98518/2026 FOR R[111] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 28257/2024SLP(C) NO.28248-28258/2024 (SEC IV-A)**

WHEREAS the Petition for SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) to Appeal with application for CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING, CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING THE SPARE COPIES, PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/ FACTS/ANNEXURES, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Ms. PATIL REKHA CHANDRA GOUDA, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 09th December, 2024 along with the connected matters, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) NOS. 28248
28258/2024

1. Delay in filing spare copies is condoned
2. Interim order, passed earlier, shall continue till the next date of hearing."

WHEREAS, the matter was listed for hearing before this Court on 09th April, 2026 along with the connected matters, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

1. Mr. Kapil Sibal, learned senior counsel appearing for the State of Karnataka in SLP(C) No. 28248-28258/2024, submits that documents dating back to 1890 have since been traced which would prove the character of the lands in dispute as 'gomal'. According to him, these documents need to be placed on record since they have a material bearing on the special leave petitions under consideration.
2. Let such additional documents be placed on record by filing an appropriate application within three weeks.
3. Exception to such application may be taken by the petitioners within a week thereafter.
4. We have heard Mr. Debal Banerji, learned senior counsel appearing for K.S. Subbaraju - respondent No.7 in SLP (C) No. 30028/2024 in support of the prayer that the said petition should be dismissed.
5. Considering the submissions made by Mr. Sibal recorded above that the Government has since traced old records to the effect that disputed lands are 'gomal', we are of the considered opinion that the application seeking dismissal of SLP (C) No. 30028/2024 ought to be heard along with the special leave petitions.
6. Re-list the special leave petitions and all connected applications on 21st May, 2026 at 12:00 noon.
7. Interim order, passed earlier, shall continue till the next date of hearing.
8. The latest office report has been read. Some of the respondents are yet to be served.
9. Fresh steps be taken by the State of Karnataka to effect service through paper publication, within two weeks from date. Notice may be published in one English daily newspaper, viz. Deccan Herald and one Kannada newspaper, viz. Kannada Prabha.
10. Once the paper publications are made, the related documents be filed before the Registry a week prior to the returnable date. Put up an appropriate office report."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition along with main matter ie., SLP (C) no. 300025-30028/2024 will be posted for hearing before this Court on 21st May, 2026 at 10.30 O' Clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as may be convenient to the Court when you may appear before the court either in person or through Counsel and show cause to the Court as to why Special Leave and interim relief as prayed for be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 immediately from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated: 13th April, 2026

Copy to :-

1 Ms. Patil Rekha Chandra Gouda (adv.), **2** Mr. Lzafeer Ahmad B. F. (adv.), **3** Mr. Deepak Prakash (adv.), **4** Mr. Vishnu Sharma A.s. (adv.), **5** Ms. Aruna Gupta (adv.), **6** Mr. Javedur Rahman (adv.) **7** Mr. Anirudh Sanganeria (adv.), **8** M/s. Nuli & Nuli (adv.), **9** Ms. Jayasree Narasimhan (adv.)

Sd/-
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

DIPR/CP/497/Zen/2026-27

TENDER

Tender is hereby invite to run Cafeteria (inside the premises) at 26ED, AF and Barber, Tailor, Vegetable shop and Cafeteria at Gagan Vihar domestic camp, Murugeshpalya, Bengaluru for the period of 01 year w.e.f 01 Jul 26. Application form may be obtained from OIC SI Fund, 26ED, AF, Vimanapura Post, Bengaluru-17. Only war widows, Ex-servicemen / Spouse / Widow of Ex-Servicemen are eligible. For further query contact 9449372223 / 8762423521.

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE

Directorate of Horticulture,
Lalbagh, Bengaluru - 560 004.

No: DH/Fruits/ADH-1/2026-27, E-2146609 **Date: 04.05.2026**

EMPANELMENT NOTIFICATION

(through HASIRU PORTAL)

Request for proposal (RFP) are invited from Manufacturers/ Authorized Distributors for empanelment for Supply of different equipments/Machineries and Solar Pump Set installation used in Horticulture crops by the farmers under various scheme in Horticulture Department for the years 2026-27 & 2027-28 through Horticulture Department HASIRU PORTAL. The interested eligible manufacturers can download the RFP documents through Department website: **https://hasiru.karnataka.gov.in from 04.05.2026 onwards.** The Last date for uploading the documents is **02.06.2026.**

Sd/-
Additional Director of Horticulture (Fruits)

DIPR/CP/476/MAA/2026-27

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1,
Amurthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-92.

No: BNCC/EE/(QA/QC)/TEND/02/2026-27 Date:04-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance/Quality Control division, Zone-1, invites Request for Proposal on behalf of The Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below works through KPP portal.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Package No.08 (1) Construction of Community Hall in Ward No. 83 Subbayyanapalya (2) Construction of Shops at Jeevanahalli and Improvements to Footpath in Ward No.85 Maruthi Sevanagara. (3) Construction of Dhobi Ghat at Yaseen Nagara and Improvements to Roads and Drains at Yaseen Nagara 5th Main, 8th Main, 10th A Cross Roads and Vinobhanagara 10th A, 10th B Cross Roads in Ward No. 78 HBR Layout (Call-2) **Project Cost: ₹.960.00 Lakhs, PMC Amount Reserved: ₹.7.62 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.19,500.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre-Bid Meeting on **08-05-2026** at **11:30** am. (2) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **16-05-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Opening of Technical Bid is **18-05-2026** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
QA/QC Division, Zone-1, BNCC

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY

Chief Health Officer(PH), Annex-3, Ground Floor, GBA Head Office, Bengaluru-02.

No: GBA/2025-26/IND0001-Call-3/IND0002-Call-3/ IND0003-Call-2/IND0005-Call-2 Date: 04.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Greater Bengaluru Authority invites tender from eligible bidders for Short term Re-Tender for the supply of 243-Refrigerator-180-200 litres, 243-Centrifuge 230-Vaccine storage Cold Box & Vacutainer and pipette set to Namma clinics of Five corporations under GBA.

Following is event of Bid Process:

1	Tender Reference No. :	GBA/2025-26/IND0001-Call-3/ IND0002-Call-3/IND0003-Call-2/IND0005-Call-2
2	Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from Karnataka public procurement portal website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**	On 04.05.2026 onwards
3	Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid Meeting	06.05.2026 at 11:30 AM at the following venue: Office of the CHO Ground Floor, Annexe-3 Building, N R square, Bengaluru-560002.
4	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka public procurement portal	06.05.2026 up to 5:00 pm
5	Last Date and Time for uploading of e-Tender in Karnataka public procurement portal	14.05.2026 up to 5:00 pm
6	Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids in Karnataka public procurement portal	15.05.2026 5:10 pm
7	Date and Time of Demonstration of Sample submisison	Shall be intimated after technical bid opening
8	Address for Communication	Chief Health Officer (Public Health), Office of the CHO Ground Floor, Annexe-2 Building, N R square, Bengaluru-560002. Email: choph515@gmail.com. Phone: 9845208571

Prospective Service Providers willing to participate in this tender can download the bid documents with visiting the web **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (Public Health)
Greater Bengaluru Authority

Proposal to limit Aadhaar cards to kids under six needs legislative action: SC

Disposes of plea with a direction that it be treated as representation on behalf of petitioner

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the issuance of new Aadhaar cards only to citizens up to the age of six years require legislative intervention and appropriate amendments in the existing legal framework.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking direction to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to issue new Aadhaar cards only to citizens up to the age of six years.

The bench said the appropriate recourse for the petitioner would be to bring all these issues to the notice of the State and other stakeholders to enable them to take cognisance of them.

It disposed of the petition with a direction that it be treated as a representation on behalf of the petitioner.

The plea filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay had also sought a direction to frame stringent guidelines for issuance of Aadhaar to adolescents and adults to stop infiltrators from masquerading as Indian citizens.

It had sought a direction to the authorities to install display boards at common service centres stating that the 12-digit unique identification number was only a "proof of identity" and not a proof of citizenship, address or date of birth.

"As may be seen from the nature of reliefs, most of these require legislative intervention and appropriate amendments in the existing legal framework," the bench said.

Upadhyay told the bench that the UIDAI has issued 144 crore Aadhaar and almost 99 per cent Indians have been enrolled.

"Point out these issues to the Parliament and the government. They will take care of them," the bench observed.

The petitioner said it was not an adversarial litigation and the plea was for preventing infiltrators from getting Aadhaar.

He referred to the issue of fake documents and said anyone with a rent agreement can get an Aadhaar.

"You raise your grievances to the Union government. They will take appropriate steps," the bench said.

The bench, without expressing any opinion on the merits, disposed of the petition with a direction that it be treated as a representation on behalf of the petitioner.

Besides all the states and Union Territories, the plea had made the UIDAI -- which is the authority that issues Aadhaar -- and the Union ministries of home, law and justice, and electronics and information technology as parties.

SC slams caste-based bail conditions set by courts in Odisha

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday severely criticised orders passed by courts in Odisha that required certain accused persons, mostly Dalits and Adivasis, to clean police stations as a condition for bail, terming them obnoxious and reflective of caste-based bias.

In a suo motu case initiated after various news reports flagged such bail conditions imposed by courts in Odisha, a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said it was "deeply disappointed and disheartened".

"We are of the considered opinion that no State judiciary should impose such conditions with a caste colour that can generate social friction. Thus, let this order be made available to all judicial officers across the country not to impose such conditions," the bench said.

Declaring the conditions null and void, the bench expressed strong disapproval of the Odisha judiciary's "regressive mindset", stating that such conditions are ex facie violative of human rights and strike at the dignity of the accused.

The bench said such orders expose caste bias against marginalised communities and emphasised that courts should refrain from imposing conditions that carry a caste bias and could cause social friction.

Further, the bench observed that reports correctly highlighted a bias in the judiciary, as the accused belonged to marginalised communities.

'Legal heirs of deceased doc liable in medical negligence case'

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday held that legal heirs of a doctor facing allegations of medical negligence can be impleaded and proceeded against even after the doctor's death.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Atul S Chandurkar answered a question of law in a more than three-decade-old consumer dispute.

The case pertains to a doctor, now deceased, who operated on a woman in 1990, following which she allegedly lost vision in her right eye.

The court clarified that under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (and the 2019 Act), the right to sue does not perish with the death of the alleged negligent doctor.

Going through provisions under Order XXII Rule 4 of the Code of Civil Procedure and various statutes, including English law principles, the bench ruled that legal heirs can be brought on record.

The extent of their liability will, however, be determined based on the pleadings and evidence on record.

The court emphasised that the right to prosecute and the right to defend are interlinked, but the statutory framework under consumer laws permits continuation of proceedings against heirs.

Importantly, the bench limited its ruling to interpreting the existing law and refrained from commenting on whether the policy itself needs change.

The court noted that the decision could have wider ramifications for other tortious claims, including personal injury cases arising from motor vehicle accidents and industrial mishaps.

The court observed that tort actions are rarely litigated in India, causing such legal principles to fade into history.

It suggested that policy experts and the Law Commission examine the need to expand the scope of Section 306 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, which deals with rights and liabilities of deceased persons.

The original complaint was filed in 1997 by a man from Munger, Bihar, against Dr P B Lall, alleging deficiency in service.

Activist Surendra Gadling gets bail in Elgar Parishad case

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS:

The Bombay High Court on Monday granted bail to activist Surendra Gadling, arrested in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case in 2018, on grounds of his long incarceration.

Gadling has been in prison since June 6, 2018.

A division bench of the Bombay High Court comprising Justice Ajay Gadkari and Justice Kamal Khata noted that Gadling has been in prison for over eight years and the trial of the case is yet to commence.

Since other accused in the case have been granted bail the court granted parity.

Though Gadling has secured bail in the Bhima Koregaon case, he would remain in prison as he is in judicial custody in the 2016 Surajgarh arson case and is yet to secure bail in that matter.

Surendra Gadling

In the Elgar Parishad case, a total of 16 persons were arrested and 15 of them have been granted bail.

Father Stan Swamy, an 84-year-old priest and tribal rights activist, died while in judicial custody in July 2021, awaiting trial.

The other accused in the case include Varavara Rao, Sudha Bharadwaj, Anand Teltumbde, Vernon Gonsalves, Arun Ferreira, Shoma Sen, Gautam Navlakha, Sudhir Dhawale, Rona Wilson, Jyoti Jagtao and Mahesh Raut.

The case was initially handled by the Maharashtra Police and later handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

Hagar The Horrible

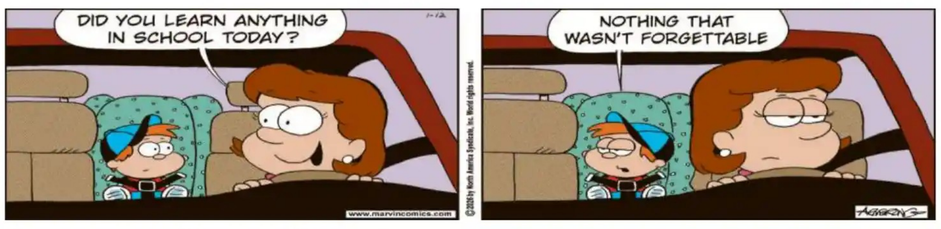
DO THE PEOPLE BELIEVE MY KINGDOM IS GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION?
SIRE, MANY ARE SAYING THEY SEE NO WRONG DIRECTION!
ANY WAY OUT IS GOOD!

Beetle Bailey

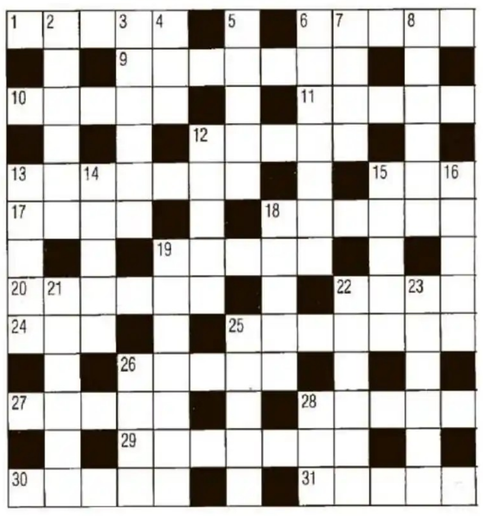
Peanuts

I'M STILL WORKING ON MY BOOK ABOUT THE LIFE OF BEETHOVEN
REMEMBER HOW IN CHAPTER ONE THERE WAS THIS FRUSTRATED GIRL WHO KICKED HIS PIANO?
WELL, GUESS WHAT HAPPENS IN CHAPTER TWO
SHE DOES IT AGAIN!

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12409



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Is this High German dialect notably sibilant? (5)
6 The conflicting bit? (5)
9 Artist attached to his boat? (7)
10 A place in Surrey; for instance, Ham (5)
11 Manage to get round the bend in a car (5)
12 Do an absorbing job as cleaner (3,2)
13 Possibly a lad new in England, formerly (7)
15 Point to me with a cry (3)
17 Birds in the music room (4)
18 Go away like a trade vehicle? (6)
19 Youngster of little importance? (5)
20 Most of the message can have variations (6)
22 A tool in the cabinet? (4)
24 Is necessarily to be in phase (3)
25 Figures to interrupt a meal for an exam (7)
26 Support possibly lost out of love (5)
27 Nominally a horn composition (5)
28 'Enry's dropped it! (5)
29 It's in difficult roles that one maybe makes little progress (7)
30 Michael contrives to please endlessly! (5)
31 A substantial proportion may get hit on the road (5)

DOWN
2 Shelter for runners and climbers, perhaps? (6)
3 Gardening suit? (6)
4 The missile man (3)
5 How a vehicle may be taken into central Bayswater (2,3)
6 When Sue and Carl get together, there's nothing sacred (7)
7 Cut short the work on credit (4)
8 Fruit drinks containing a little pepper (6)
12 Her Victor's back in Siam! (5)
13 There's defence in it (5)
14 Naked models cavorting in the dunes (5)
15 Character in an opera to see and copy (5)
16 We start to lean over and turn (5)
18 Swear at the Spanish in a letter (5)
19 Medicinal compound men start taking on holiday? (7)
21 He also goes round in circles (6)
22 The finale sounds like Sibelius (6)
23 Singular dance for an old soldier (6)
25 The maxim of many a German (5)
26 The vending of ales? (4)
28 Cunning little chap? (3)

ACROSS
1 Parrot type (5)
6 Wobbly dessert (5)
9 Dreary (7)
10 Ghost (5)
11 Heathen (5)
12 To coach (5)
13 French bean (7)
15 Sleeping place (3)
17 Cupid (4)
18 Tranquil (6)
19 Thighbone (5)
20 American state (6)
22 Act without words (4)
24 And not (3)
25 Seaman (7)
26 Use bad language (5)
27 Girl's name (5)
28 Book of maps (5)
29 Very light rain (7)
30 Surrendered (5)
31 Rub out (5)

DOWN
2 Seem, look (6)
3 Handsome youth (6)
4 Chinese cooking pot (3)
5 Vital organ (5)
6 Planet (7)
7 Style, vigour (4)
8 Heavy and inert (6)
12 Voucher (5)
13 Wading bird (5)
14 Oarsman (5)
15 Start (5)
16 Discourage (5)
18 Sucrose (5)
19 Attacking footballer (7)
21 Revolve, spin (6)
22 Man's title (6)
23 Bravery awards (6)
25 Indian corn (5)
26 Flank (4)
28 Beer type (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12408

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Twist 8, Mites 10, Pi-lot 11, Dig 12, F-R-ail 13, Venison 15, Den-is 18, Box 19, Serial 21, CL-utter 22, Rare 23, Spin 24, So-U-they 26, Slight 29, Lil 31, Sug-ar 32, De-me-ans 34, Liver 35, C-I-D 36, S-k-ulk 37, Strew 38, Serve.
DOWN: 1, Aides 2, Le-gible 4, W-or-N 5, Spider 6, Tiler 7, Sonia 9, Tin 12, Foxtrot 14, So-U 16, Nippy 17, Sling 19, Settler 20, Crass 21, Craig 23, S-elects 24, Shrike 25, Him 27, Luc-k-y 28, G-alls 30, Index 32, Derv 33, Air.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Kayak 8, Cabal 10, Valid 11, Tar 12, Later 13, Forages 15, Needs 18, Cog 19, Tune in 21, Fatigue 22, Airs 23, Cite 24, Closure 26, Soiree 29, Dry 31, Astir 32, Ransack 34, Dicey 35, Tic 36, Saves 37, Gamut 38, Ready.
DOWN: 1, Baton 2, Caracas 4, Alas 5, Avenue 6, Karen 7, Hindi 9, Bar 12, Legible 14, Got 16, Eerie 17, Sneer 19, Tuesday 20, Balsa 21, Fruit 23, Crystal 24, Cerise 25, Urn 27, Oscar 28, Rider 30, Occur 32, Rend 33, Aim,.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6897 ◆

	2							
	7				6	4	9	
	9				3	8		
9				5	8			
5								2
			1	4				9
		2	4				3	
	8	3	6				7	
							4	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6896

8	1	7	6	4	5	2	3	9
3	6	4	7	9	2	8	5	1
2	9	5	3	8	1	7	6	4
9	8	1	4	5	3	6	2	7
5	4	2	1	6	7	3	9	8
7	3	6	8	2	9	4	1	5
1	2	8	5	7	6	9	4	3
4	5	9	2	3	8	1	7	6
6	7	3	9	1	4	5	8	2

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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								RACK 1
E1	L1	T1	L1	A1	Y4	A1		
								RACK 2
I1	N1	Y4	G2	I1	I1	V4	2nd Letter Triple	
								RACK 3
E1	I1	B3	L1	F4	S1	E1	Double Word Score	
								RACK 4
I1	E1	K5	N1	D2	E1	Y4	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 5
U1	C3	T1	Q10	S1	A1	I1	Triple Word Score	

PAR SCORE 160-170
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

A1	F4	F4	A1	B3	L1	E1	RACK 1	= 69
K5	I1	L1	O1	T1	O1	N1	RACK 2	= 61
S1	W4	A1	N1	K5	Y4		RACK 3	= 48
D2	I1	V4	I1	D2	E1		RACK 4	= 11
							JUDD'S TOTAL	189

PAR SCORE 125-135

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

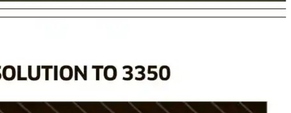
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OSEPI

FREAT

TBRETA

MZIOEB


You've really captured the performers.
I'm used to seeing the circus from above.
THE CIRCUS PERFORMER PAINTED DURING HIS TIME OFF BECAUSE HE WAS A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRAZE DRIFT HELMET CASINO
Answer: The fashion runway star was politically active as a — MODEL CITIZEN

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HITORI-3351

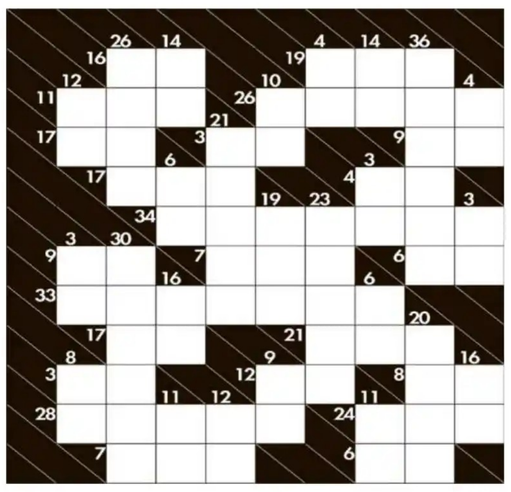
7	6	4	7	4	1	1	1
2	4	5	7	6	3	7	1
7	7	6	1	8	2	7	6
4	1	3	7	5	7	2	7
2	8	1	5	3	7	4	1
3	2	6	1	7	5	7	8
7	7	2	3	1	1	5	4
3	5	7	7	2	8	7	3

SOLUTION TO 3350

2	6	4	■	7	■	1	8
7	■	3	5	1	2	6	■
■	1	2	■	6	■	8	3
3	■	7	2	8	5	■	1
6	7	1	8	■	3	2	■
■	3	8	1	2	■	5	6
1	5	■	6	3	8	■	4
■	8	6	■	5	4	3	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3351



SOLUTION TO 3350

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3906

■								1
	1				7	5	■	
5		6				8		
		2	3		■			
			1	7		2		
			■		■	6	7	
	9	■				■	2	
7	■	1		4			■	
■	5	4			6			

SOLUTION TO 3905

2	9	7	3	5	6	8	4	1
6	3	4	8	1	2	7	5	9
1	8	5	7	4	9	6	3	2
7	6	1	4	2	3	5	9	8
9	2	3	5	8	7	4	1	6
5	4	8	9	6	1	2	7	3
3	1	2	6	7	5	9	8	4
8	7	9	2	3	4	1	6	5
4	5	6	1	9	8	3	2	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

DH DECCAN HERALD

Political Theatre

Voice

Assam and Bengal are clear cases of the election being stolen by the BJP with the support of the EC. We agree with Mamata ji. More than 100 seats were stolen in Bengal.

Rahul Gandhi,
Congress leader

KAPIL SIBAL
Rajya Sabha MP

"West Bengal, Trinamool Congres was defeated not by the BJP but by Election Commission, Central Forces, and by the disenfranchisement of 2.5 million voters.

AKHILESH YADAV
Samajwadi Party chief

"Every deceptive victory has an expiry date and this is the foundation of truth. Will those in power drag politics to levels even below the lowest depths? This is a dark day in the political history of the country. The entire nation is angry, and democracy is distressed.

JAIRAM RAMESH
Congress leader

"With the exception of Keralam, the election results elsewhere have fallen short of our expectations. However, we are neither disheartened nor dejected. We are waging an ideological struggle. The path of the struggle for democracy and truth against authoritarianism and falsehood is invariably long and arduous.

CPI(ML) LIBERATION

"An emboldened BJP will try to use the poll outcome to further its sinister political agenda of complete capture and centralisation of power. Left and progressive forces must close ranks and stand with the people to resist this fascist design.

How BJP went back to the drawing board to reap poll dividends

Demography, organisation and doles helped the party break barriers in Bengal

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After its drubbing in the last Assembly polls and the drop in its parliamentary seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP went back to the drawing board to redraft its campaign strategy for the West Bengal elections.

Lagging behind the TMC in 2016, the BJP faced three major hurdles — West Bengal's demography that has nearly 27% Muslim population, its organisational weakness as compared to the TMC, and a lack of larger cultural acceptability in Bengal.

By increasing it vote share by almost 8 percentage points as compared to the 2024 Lok Sabha performance, the BJP seems to have made inroads into all sections of the majority community. The party's penetration among Dalit and tribal voters had helped it win LS seats in north Bengal in the last two parliamentary polls. The outreach now seems to have expanded to other parts.

BJP supporters celebrate the party's victory in Kolkata on Monday. REUTERS

This vote base seems to have got topped up with the urban middle class disillusioned by the lack of employment opportunities and a stagnant economy.

Despite minority mobilisation driven by SIR-related citizenship fears, the fact that the TMC could not cross the three-digit mark indicates that Mamata Banerjee's party failed to win seats with 25%-30% Muslim population. This alludes to more than 60% majority mobilisation in favour of the BJP.

Local vs outsider

Among the national leaders, only Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah took on the TMC leadership. The involvement of other managers remained understated.

Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, who is in-charge of the state, travelled to the state every weekend. Bihar Minister Mangal Pandey regularly visited localities with migrant populations from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Sunil Bansal, an RSS-deputed pracharak in Kolkata, marshalled party's resources in the state.

Even while challenging the Trinamool, BJP leaders refrained from making personal attacks on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Instead, the party focused on questioning the performance of her 15-year tenure.

Poll doles

Mamata's personal appeal, capped with direct cash transfer schemes, had helped the TMC win over a large section of women voters. As the impact of the existing schemes faded, the BJP, in its manifesto, promised to enhance the cash handouts to women.

At an election rally, PM Modi also announced the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission for state government employees if the BJP came to power.

Clad in dhoti, Modi talks 'poriborton' in 'fearless' Bengal

Says win brings peace to soul of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Dedicating the BJP's West Bengal win and "years of dedication" of karyakartas to the dream of party founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his victory speech at the party headquarters on Monday, said that the state has embraced "poriborton" (change), and that the lotus has bloomed from "Gangotri to Gangasagar".

Modi said that the ideologue is now at peace. "Shyama Prasad Mukherjee dreamt of a self-reliant Bengal; and we had to wait for a long time to achieve that. But from today, Bengal is fearless; it has changed. These results have brought peace to his soul," Modi said. He added that Mukherjee, who founded the Jana Sangh in 1951, had inspired generations of BJP workers to "live for the country, and if needed, die for the country".

Calling it a new dawn, Modi said that the women in Bengal will now enjoy a safe environment. "With Bengal's victory, the lotus has bloomed from Gangotri to Gangasagar — Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and now West Bengal. These states, nestled around the Ganga, now have the BJP and NDA in power."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is welcomed at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Monday as the party celebrates its performance in Assembly elections. BJP national president Nitin Nabin is also seen. PTI

Dressed in a Bengali-style dhoti, Modi was welcomed at the BJP headquarters by party president Nitin Nabin. On the dais, he was flanked by Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and other senior leaders. Before Modi arrived at the party office, mishti doi, rasogullas and jhal-muri were distributed to celebrate the win.

'Violence must stop'

Modi said that political violence must stop. "There should be a change in the political habits of the state. Today, when the BJP has won, not badla (revenge) but badlav (change) should be talked about. Let us end this endless cycle of violence," he said.

The prime minister said that women have "punished" the Congress, Trinamool and the DMK for voting against the bills to amend women's reservation legislation linked to delimitation. "In Kerala, the Congress has certainly benefited from the 10 years of misrule by the Left, but I am confident that the sisters of Kerala will also teach the party a lesson in the next elections," he said.

BJP overhaul, Cabinet rejig likely before UP, Guj polls

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

As BJP scripts a stellar victory in West Bengal and a hat-trick in Assam, the party is poised to bring in some changes within the party as well as in the government as it gears up for two tough battles next year — in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

The buzz of an organisational overhaul has been doing the rounds, and with Nitin Nabin taking over the reins of the party recently, it is now a matter of time. As per the party's constitution, a president is entitled to bring in his own team.

A new team of general secretaries, in-charges and presidents of several wings and departments, as well as a new CEC is expected in the coming weeks.

BJP is also keen to consolidate its forces before the UP Assembly polls, considered a midterm mandate in the run-up to the big 2029 wrestle.

The government is also likely to see a shuffle in the Modi Cabinet. Sources said BJP will need to accommodate some leaders due to caste calculations and alliance obligations.

Punjab on list

A senior party leader said BJP's next key focus is Punjab.

"For the BJP, Punjab is an important state, and we feel that there is a strong chance for the party in the state. It is a border state, and the drug trade is a huge problem there. With the AAP losing ground, we will definitely give it our best," the leader said.

BJP could once again try to bring the delimitation bill back in some form. As the stalling of the bill seemed to have brought the constituents of the I.N.D.I.A Alliance together, BJP is also likely to test Opposition unity in the Lok Sabha strategically as the Congress has distanced itself from DMK and TMC.

In the two states where BJP won big, a clear pitch was the issue of illegal immigrants, a rhetoric as well as a poll pitch that Home Minister Amit Shah keeps picking up in poll-bound states across the country. The issue could snowball into a larger narrative for BJP in the 2029 Lok Sabha polls, and sources in the party indicated that attempts to tackle the issue might take centrestage in the party's policies in the coming months.

SC declines urgent plea on central forces for Bengal

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to consider, on an urgent basis, a plea seeking the continuance of central forces in West Bengal after the conclusion of polls to curb post-election violence.

A bench said the state should be run by the political executive, not the court.

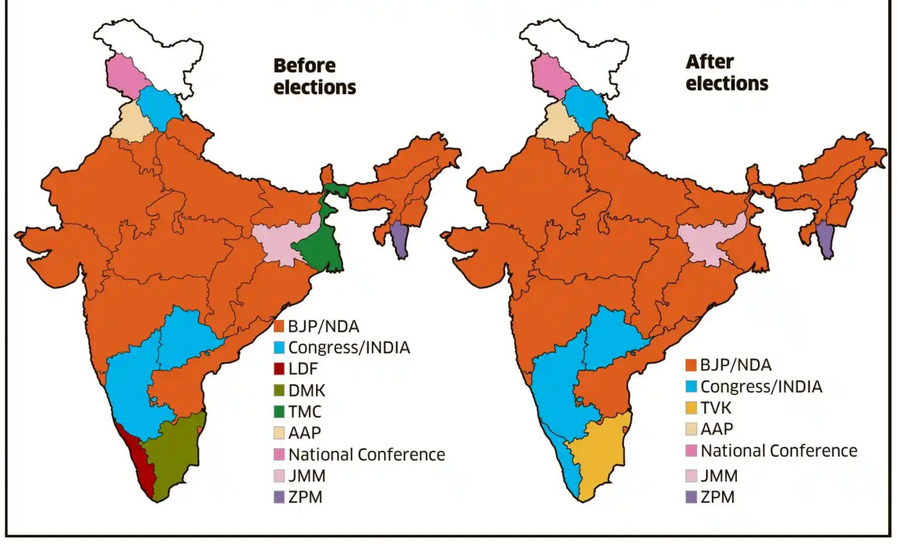
Senior advocate V Giri, appearing for a party, contended that central forces should be allowed to remain in the state, citing large-scale post-poll violence witnessed there in 2021.

He sought measures to prevent such violence after the declaration of the results of the present Assembly elections, the counting of which is underway.

The counsel said his client sought a direction to set up a monitoring committee, preferably headed by a former Supreme Court judge, to oversee the deployment of adequate forces to prevent violence.

The bench asked the counsel to approach the HC. Giri said the poll panel's role would cease once the results are declared. Senior advocate D S Naidu, representing the EC, agreed. "Our role ceases once the counting is done," he said.

India's political landscape: The many shades



One exit poll accurately predicts TVK's stunning win

NEW DELHI, PTI: Most exit polls on West Bengal, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry got their predictions right but one pollster that stood out was 'Axis My India' with its accurate forecast of TVK's sensational election debut in Tamil Nadu.

While most exit polls got the direction of the West Bengal polls right, Today's Chanakya and Praja Poll got the scale of the BJP's win right. Praja Poll predicted a big win for the BJP, forecasting 178-208 seats for it. Today's Chanakya forecast 192 seats for the BJP and 100 for the TMC in West Bengal with a margin of error of 11 seats.

The BJP was set for a decisive win over the TMC in long-elusive West Bengal and headed for another term in Assam while actor-politician Vijay's TVK made a stunning debut in Tamil Nadu as the largest single party in terms of seats won or led.

As votes were counted for assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, Election Commission trends showed a wipeout of the Left and a solitary win for the Congress that has been battling diminishing electoral returns. That silver lining for the opposition party came from Kerala where the Congress-led UDF won or was leading in 101 of the 140 Assembly seats while the CPM-led ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) was ahead in just under 40 constituencies.

The cynosure of Election 2026, however, was West Bengal, the eastern state where the TMC was eyeing a fourth straight term in its only bastion.

Several polls wrongly predicted a big win for the DMK with the People's Pulse predicting 125-145 for the DMK-led alliance, 65-80 for AIADMK-BJP and 18-24 for the TVK.

BJP workers celebrate as the party takes the lead during vote tabulation on the day of Assembly election results across four states and one Union Territory (UT), in Varanasi. PTI

BJP Bengal win boosts morale in Uttar Pradesh

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Although the next Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh are still a year away and the electoral equations in the state are quite different, the BJP's thumping victory in the West Bengal Assembly polls is certain to boost the morale of the saffron party's workers while having a demoralising effect on opposition parties, mainly the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress.

According to party sources, the BJP is gearing up to highlight its Bengal win in UP, where it suffered a setback in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, with its tally falling to 33 seats from 62 in the 2019 LS polls.

"The Bengal win will be a huge morale booster for the BJP in UP while demoralising the opposition," said Lucknow-based political analyst J.P. Shukla.

The saffron party will also go full throttle to puncture the PDA (pichda, dalit and alpsankhyak) formula of the SP, which was considered to be behind its success in the state in the 2024 LS elections, where the party won 37 seats, including the prestigious Ayodhya seat, sending shockwaves through the saffron camp.

The BJP will also seek to drive home the message that regional satraps, with whose support SP president Akhilesh Yadav is trying to catapult himself onto the national stage, are themselves being pushed to the margins by the people, citing the examples of TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and DMK chief M.K. Stalin.

"The people of Bengal and Tamil Nadu have rejected Mamata Banerjee and Stalin... Akhilesh will meet the same fate in the 2027 Assembly polls in UP," UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said.

Maurya also referred to the defeat of RJD's Tejasvi Yadav in the Bihar Assembly polls to buttress his argument.

Mamata Banerjee's defeat is also being viewed here as a personal setback for Akhilesh, as he had thrown his weight behind her and often highlighted his good personal equations with the TMC leader.

SP leaders, apparently shocked by the TMC's loss, alleged "large-scale rigging" in the Bengal polls. "Mamata Banerjee would have won had the election not been rigged," SP LS member from Ayodhya, Awadhesh Prasad, said.

The saffron win in West Bengal is also likely to consolidate UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's position in the state and further establish him as the Hindutva face of the BJP in the country. Adityanath addressed 11 election meetings in Bengal.

Congress boosted despite I.N.D.I.A bloc allies' loss in Bengal, Tamil Nadu

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress has something to cheer for in this round of Assembly elections after dismal performances following the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. It has an emphatic victory in Kerala and an enhanced space in the I.N.D.I.A bloc following the fall of the Trinamool Congress and the DMK.

The results have left the Opposition bloc with questions about how to move forward when two of its top partners — considered a bulwark against the Hindutva forces — bit the dust to anti-incumbency while the BJP managed to circumvent it in Assam.

The Congress' Rahul Gandhi could ironically be considered a winner alongside the BJP, as he read the tea leaves better by choosing not to share the stage with "elder brother" M K Stalin, instead backing a section that wanted to go with Vijay's TVK, and leaving no stones unturned in attacking the TMC and the Left.

The results will embolden Vijay's supporters in the Congress, who have been brandishing internal surveys to argue for a tie-up with the TVK. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was said to be instrumental in not disturbing the status quo in Tamil Nadu.

Opposition leaders stage a protest at Parliament premises in New Delhi. PTI FILE

A section in the party also finds fault with senior leader P Chidambaram and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar for insisting on going with the DMK while Rahul was said to be inclined to explore the possibilities of going with Vijay, who was keen to join the Congress in early 2010s.

The Tamil Nadu CPM leadership was also in favour of going with the TVK, but, like the Congress, its leaders in Delhi vetoed the idea. It is to be seen how parties like the VCK — a DMK ally — see their future and how the Congress plays its cards.

The TMC's defeat means that it will not be able to seek a more prominent space for Mamata Banerjee at the national level.

Elsewhere...

Meanwhile, the Kerala victory has come as a lifeline for the Congress, as a defeat would have resurrected questions over its ability to lead an anti-BJP front at the national level.

In Assam, the party could not unseat the BJP, amid a misfired campaign where it failed to consolidate the Ahom community and could not improve its performance in the Upper Assam region.

Puducherry also saw troubles in alliance as Congress and DMK fought each other.

Status quo in bypolls as BJP, Cong & NCP retain seats

NEW DELHI, DHNS: It was status quo in bypolls as the BJP, Congress and NCP retained their seven seats in five states. BJP won four seats in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tripura and Nagaland while the Congress won two in Karnataka and NCP emerged victorious in Maharashtra.

The biggest victory in this bypolls was in Baramati where Sunetra Pawar won by a whopping 2.18 lakh votes against her nearest opponent — Independent candidate RY Ghutukade Sir — could bag only 935 votes.

Baramati fell vacant after her husband Ajit Pawar, who won the seat by 1.65 lakh votes, died in a plane crash. While mainstream parties did not field a candidate, there were 22 independents in the fray necessitating a contest.

"The election results especially reflect the trust, love, and sentiments people had for Ajit Dada... The trust, love, and support you have shown me are of immense value to me," she said.

BJP's Akshay S Kardile won the Rahuri seat, which fell vacant following the death of BJP's Shivaji Bhanudas Kardile, by a margin of 1.12 lakh votes against NCP(SP)'s Mokate G Khandu.

In Gujarat's Umreth that fell vacant after the death of saffron party's Govindbhai Raijibhai Parmar, BJP's Harshadbhai G Parmar defeated Congress' Bhrugurajsinh Chouhan by 30,743 votes.

Another BJP winner was Jahar Chakraborti in Tripura's Dharmanagar where a bypoll was necessitated by the death of former Tripura Speaker Biswa Bandhu Sen. Chakraborti defeated his nearest rival CPM's Amitabha Dutta by 18,920 votes.

In Nagaland, BJP's Daochier I Imchen won Koridong by defeating independent candidate Toshikaba by 3,123 votes. Congress' T Chalukumba Ao bagged just 144 votes.

Congress' Umesh Hullappa Meti won the Bagalkot bypoll defeating BJP's Charantimath Veerbhaddrayya by a margin of 22,332 votes while Samarth Shamanur Mallikarjuna defeated Shrinivasa T Dasakariyappa of the saffron party by 5,708 votes.

(With inputs from Mrityunjay Bose, Mumbai)

Warships assisting merchant traffic in Strait of Hormuz: US military

Iran says it stopped 'American-Zionist' warship entering strait

DUBAI/WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The US military said two US Navy guided-missile destroyers had entered the Gulf to break an Iranian blockade, and that two US ships had transited the Strait of Hormuz, after Iran said it had prevented a US warship from entering the Gulf.

US Central Command said its forces were supporting President Donald Trump's "Project Freedom", which aims to guide commercial ships stranded in the Gulf by the US-Israeli war on Iran, and were enforcing a blockade of Iranian ports.

The intervention appeared to raise the risk of a direct confrontation between the US and Iran in a waterway that usually carries a fifth of the world's seaborne oil and gas, but has been blocked for two months as a result of the war.

CENTCOM said two US-flagged merchant vessels had crossed through the strait as the US destroyers operated in the Gulf, adding: "American forces are actively assisting efforts to restore transit for commercial shipping." Earlier on Monday, Iran said it had forced a US warship to turn back from the Strait of Hormuz, although CENTCOM quickly denied an Iranian news report that the ship had been hit by missiles.

Sailors stand on board as the German Navy's minehunter "Fulda" leaves the harbour of Kiel for the Mediterranean as part of a pre-deployment operation for a possible mission in the Strait of Hormuz on Monday. AFP

A senior Iranian official told Reuters that Iran had fired a warning shot and that it was unclear whether the warship had been damaged. Oil prices had jumped 5% on reports of the warship being turned back, but by 1220 GMT were up around 2.5%. The shipping industry remains unconvinced that the vital oil route, whose closure has damaged global business and trade, is safe to use, with little sign of progress towards a negotiated resolution of Washington's conflict with Iran.

Iran's navy said it had prevented "American-Zionist" warships from entering the Strait area by issuing a "swift and decisive warning". Iran's semi-official Fars news agency said two missiles had hit the warship near the port of Jask at the southern entrance to the strait. CENTCOM denied that any warship had been struck.

Trump gave few details of his plan to aid ships and their crews who have been confined to the vital waterway and are running low on food and other supplies. "We have told these countries that we will guide their ships safely out of these restricted waterways, so that they can freely and ably get on with their business," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social site on Sunday.

Warning from Iran

In response to Trump's announcement, Iran's unified command told ships and oil tankers to refrain from any movement. "We have repeatedly said the security of the Strait of Hormuz is in our hands and that the safe passage of vessels needs to be coordinated with the armed forces," Ali Abdollahi, head of the forces' unified command, said.

3 Indians injured

Three Indian nationals were injured on Monday after a fire broke out at the Fujairah Petroleum Industries Zone (FOIZ) in the UAE following a drone strike, PTI reports from Dubai. In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in the UAE confirmed that three Indians sustained injuries in the attack in Fujairah. "We are in touch with local authorities to ensure adequate medical care and welfare of the affected Indian nationals," it said.

US evacuates crew of seized Iranian ship to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, PTI: The US has evacuated 22 crew members held aboard an Iranian ship seized by its forces to Pakistan as a "confidence-building measure", a statement issued by the Foreign Office said on Monday.

The ship, MV Touska, part of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) group that has been hit with US sanctions, was boarded and seized by US forces on April 19 off the coast of Iran's Chabahar port in the Gulf of Oman, Dawn reported.

"As a confidence-building measure, twenty-two crew members held aboard the seized Iranian container ship, MV Touska, have been evacuated to Pakistan," Pakistan's Foreign Office said.

It added that the Iranian ship will also be brought to Pakistani territorial waters for return to its original owners after necessary repairs. "These arrangements are being coordinated with the support of both the Iranian and US sides," it said. The Foreign Office further stated that Pakistan welcomes such confidence-building measures and will continue to facilitate dialogue and diplomacy.

European leaders call for stronger defence role

Nato chief says Europeans have 'gotten message' from Trump

YEREVAN (ARMENIA), AP/PTI

European leaders on Monday said President Donald Trump's decision to pull thousands of US troops out of Germany came as a surprise but signalled that Europe must take greater responsibility for its own security, as Nato chief Mark Rutte said the continent had "heard the message" from Washington.

The Pentagon announced last week that it would withdraw some 5,000 troops from Germany, but Trump told reporters on Saturday that "we're going to cut way down. And we're cutting a lot further than 5,000." He offered no reason for the move, which blindsided Nato, but it comes amid an escalating dispute with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz over the US-Israeli war on Iran, and Trump's frustration with European allies' reluctance to get involved in the conflict in West Asia.

"European leaders have gotten the message. They heard the message loud and clear," Rutte said before talks with European leaders in Armenia, acknowledging "disappointment on the US side" over Europe's stance on the war.

"Europeans are stepping up — a bigger role for Europe and a stronger Nato," he added ahead of a European Political Community meeting dominated by security concerns over the Ukraine war and tensions in West Asia. Asked about the US decision, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said it should not be exaggerated, as Europe was already expected to take on more responsibility.

"I do not see those figures as dramatic, but I think they should be handled in a harmonious way inside the framework of Nato," he said.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said "there needs to be a stronger European element in Nato", warning that growing tensions within alliances must be addressed. French President Emmanuel Macron said Europeans were "taking their destiny into their own hands" by increasing defence spending and strengthening security cooperation. "We have to step up our military capabilities to be able to defend and protect ourselves," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said.

French President Emmanuel Macron (right) shows British Prime Minister something on his phone during the European Political Community summit in Yerevan on Monday. REUTERS

US calls Taiwan 'trusted and capable partner'

TAIPEI, REUTERS: Taiwan is a "trusted and capable" partner of the US, and its global relationships, including with Eswatini, provide significant benefits, the US State Department said of President Lai Ching-te's trip to the southern African kingdom.

Lai arrived in the former Swaziland on Saturday on a surprise visit after his government blamed Chinese pressure for blocking an earlier trip planned for last month, when three Indian Ocean states denied overflight permission for his aircraft.

China views democratically governed Taiwan as part of its territory, with no right to state-to-state ties, a position Taiwan's government strongly disputes. Beijing has demanded that countries halt any engagement with the island.

The US is Taiwan's most important international backer and arms supplier, to the constant anger of Beijing. "Taiwan is a trusted and capable partner of the US and many others, and its relationships around the world provide significant benefits to the citizens of those countries, including Eswatini," a State Department spokesperson said.

Cruise ship virus outbreak kills 3

CAPE TOWN, AP/PTI

A Dutch cruise ship with around 150 passengers on board was waiting for help off the coast of Cape Verde in the Atlantic Ocean on Monday after a suspected outbreak of the rare hantavirus on board killed three people and left at least three others seriously ill, the World Health Organization and the ship's operator said.

The MV Hondius, which was on a weekslong polar cruise from Argentina to Antarctica and then to several isolated islands in the South Atlantic, had requested help from local health authorities after making its way to Cape Verde off the coast of West Africa, but no one was allowed to disembark, the company operating the cruise said late Sunday.

A 70-year-old Dutch man who presented with fever, headache, abdominal pain and diarrhoea was the first victim and died on board while the ship was near the British territory of Saint Helena, some 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometres) off the African coast, South Africa's health department said. His body was taken off the vessel there and was awaiting repatriation. His 69-year-old wife was transferred to South Africa but collapsed at a Johannesburg airport and died at a nearby hospital, the department said.

The ship then sailed on to Ascension Island, another isolated Atlantic outpost about 1,300 km to the north, where a British man was taken off the ship. He later tested positive for hantavirus, a rare infection spread by rodents that can cause serious respiratory illness or haemorrhagic fever, the health department said.

A view of cruise ship MV Hondius off the port of Praia, the capital of Cape Verde, on Monday. AFP

Two Pakistani Hindus qualify for civil service

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Two men from Pakistan's minority Hindu community have qualified for the federal civil service, where representation of such groups in government jobs remains historically low.

Jeevan Rebari and Khem Chand Jandora, both from Sindh province, were among the 170 candidates selected for the Central Superior Services (CSS) following the declaration of results by the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) on Thursday. With a population of around 3.8 million, Hindus are the largest minority community in Pakistan, mostly residing in Sindh province, according to the 2023 population census.

Minority representation in Pakistan's CSS has historically been low, prompting the government to launch initiatives such as a special training programme in 2025 to increase inclusion.

According to the FPSC, 12,792 candidates appeared for the written examinations, of whom 355 passed. The final number of selected candidates stood at 170 after further rounds. Official data shows that 123 seats reserved for minorities remain vacant, underscoring the significance of these selections.

Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of deadly cross-border strikes

KABUL, AP/PTI: Afghanistan on Monday accused Pakistan of carrying out cross-border attacks into its territory, hitting civilian areas and leaving at least three people dead and 14 others wounded, as tensions between the two neighbours remained high despite recent peace talks.

Afghan deputy government spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat posted on X that Pakistani attacks had destroyed two schools, two mosques and a health centre in the eastern Afghan province of Kunar. There was no immediate comment from Pakistan on the allegation. Islamabad has repeatedly rejected previous accusations of striking civilian areas in Afghanistan.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have been embroiled in months of fighting that has killed hundreds of people since late February.

Nepal revives claim over Lipulekh, seeks talks with India

KATHMANDU, PTI

Nepal on Monday renewed its territorial claim over Lipulekh and sought dialogue with India to resolve the issue, a day after New Delhi firmly dismissed Kathmandu's stance on the region.

India on Sunday rejected Nepal's objection to the upcoming Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via the long-established Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand, dismissing Kathmandu's territorial claims as an "unilateral artificial enlargement" that it finds "untenable".

New Delhi's sharp reaction came hours after Nepal's foreign ministry issued a statement objecting to preparations by India and China for the annual pilgrimage via Lipulekh Pass, asserting that the region belongs to Nepal.

"Nepal does not intend to enlarge its boundary; the territory belongs to Nepal, and the government has a clear view on this and is committed to its stance," Nepal government spokesperson Sasmit Pokharel said. "The issue needs to be resolved through collaboration and diplomatic dialogue between the two countries," said Pokharel, who is also the Minister for Education, Science and Technology.

He said the Foreign Ministry has already notified India on the matter through a formal letter. The pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and Mansarovar Lake in China's Tibet Autonomous Region holds religious significance for Hindus, Jains and Buddhists.

The yatra resumed last year after a gap of nearly five years as part of efforts to normalise relations between India and China. On April 30, the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi announced that the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is set to take place from June to August via two routes — Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La in Sikkim.

Tiny world beyond Pluto found to have atmosphere

CAPE CANAVERAL (US), AP/PTI

A new study suggests that a tiny, icy world beyond Pluto harbours a thin, delicate atmosphere that may have been created by volcanic eruptions or a comet strike.

Just 300 miles (500 km) across, this mini-Pluto is thought to be the solar system's smallest object yet with a clearly detected global atmosphere bound by gravity, said lead researcher Ko Arimatsu of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan. "This is an amazing development, but it sorely needs independent verification. The implications are profound if verified," said Alan Stern of the Southwest Research Institute, the lead scientist behind NASA's New Horizons mission to Pluto.

The finding offers fresh insight into the solar system's farthest, coldest objects in a region known as the Kuiper Belt. Researchers used three telescopes in Japan to observe the object in 2024 as it passed in front of a background star, briefly dimming the starlight.

"It changes our view of small worlds in the solar system, not only beyond Neptune," Arimatsu said. Finding an atmosphere around such a small object was "genuinely surprising", he added, and challenges "the conventional view that atmospheres are limited to large planets, dwarf planets and some large moons".

The object, formally known as (612533) 2002 XV93, is considered a plutino, orbiting the Sun twice in the time it takes Neptune to complete three solar orbits. At the time of the study, it was more than 3.4 billion miles away, farther than even Pluto, the only other Kuiper Belt object with an observed atmosphere.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A view of the high-rise residential building following a drone attack by Ukraine in Moscow on Monday. AFP

Drone hits Moscow high-rise days before major military parade

▸ A drone struck a high-rise apartment building a few miles from the Kremlin on Monday, in a rare attack on Moscow that came as Ukraine has expanded its long-range strikes inside Russia, NYT News Service reports.

The breach of air defences in the Russian capital occurred five days before the annual Victory Day parade, a major event on Red Square marking the Soviet contribution to the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. Last week, Russia said the parade would be significantly scaled down, acknowledging the growing threat from Ukrainian drones. In an effort to damage Russia's oil-dependent economy, Ukraine has carried out several strikes in recent weeks on facilities deep inside Russian territory. Russia said on Sunday that Ukraine had attacked an important oil-exporting station on the Black Sea, while Ukraine said its forces had struck two ships in the Russian "shadow fleet" — vessels that surreptitiously transport oil in violation of sanctions — at another Black Sea port. The drone strike on the Moscow apartment building took place in the early hours of Monday, the city's mayor, Sergei S Sobyanin, said in a statement.

Car rams crowd in Leipzig, 2 killed

▸ A driver ploughed into people in the centre of the German city of Leipzig on Monday, killing two people, AP/PTI reports from Berlin.

The city's fire service director, Axel Schuh, said two others were seriously injured and taken to hospital. He added that about 20 additional people were "affected", without providing further details. Much about the incident remained unclear. Mayor Burkhard Jung said authorities did not know the motive. However, he added that "there is no longer any danger ... it is under control. The police have caught the suspected perpetrator." Photos from the scene showed a silver car with a damaged front after the incident, which occurred at about 5 pm. The incident took place on Grimmaische Strasse, a street leading into Leipzig's shopping area.

A wrestler gets knocked down by a bull during a traditional Betsileo bull-wrestling event in Ambatomirahavavy, Madagascar, on Sunday. REUTERS

US SC restores abortion pill access

▸ The Supreme Court on Monday restored broad access to the abortion pill mifepristone, blocking a ruling that had threatened to disrupt one of the main ways abortion is provided across the country, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

The order, signed by Justice Samuel Alito, temporarily allows women seeking abortions to obtain the pill at pharmacies or through the mail, without an in-person visit to a doctor. Those rules had been in effect for several years until a federal appeals court imposed new restrictions last week. The majority of abortions in the US are obtained through medication, usually a combination of mifepristone and a second drug, misoprostol.

Rudy Giuliani in critical condition

▸ Rudolph Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City and a one-time adviser to President Donald Trump, is in critical but stable condition in hospital, AP/PTI reports from New York.

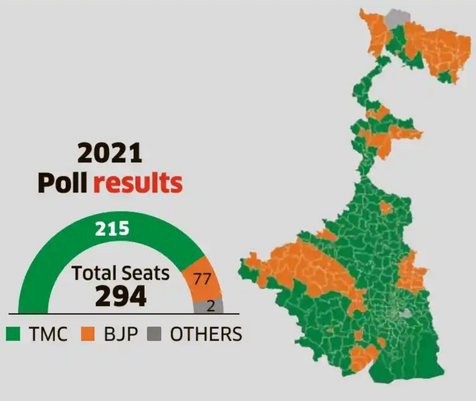
Spokesman Ted Goodman did not say what led to the 81-year-old being admitted or how long he has been there. "Mayor Giuliani is a fighter who has faced every challenge in his life with unwavering strength, and he is fighting with that same level of strength as we speak," Goodman said in a statement on social media.

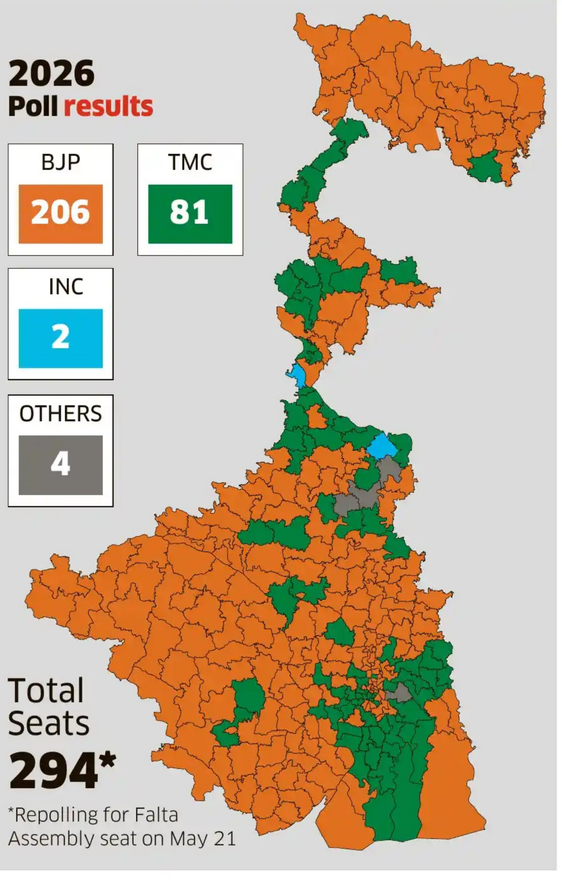
Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (left) and Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi pose for photographs during a welcome ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra on Monday. AFP

DH DECCAN HERALD

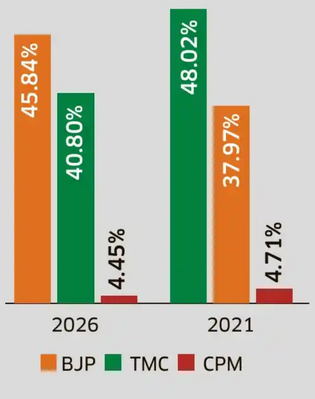
Political Theatre

West Bengal





Vote Share



Winners

40,839
Asansol Dakshin
AGNIMITRA PAUL

16,296
Domkal
Md. MOSTAFIJUR RAHAMAN

58,876
Rejinagar
HUMAYUN KABIR

Losers

17,548
Baharampur
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

6,013
Tollyganj
AROOP BISWAS

37,330
Bidhannagar
SUJIT BOSE

*Margin

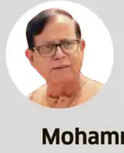
Strike Rate (%)

Seats won/ Seats contested

Voices

The people of Bengal have taught such a lesson to the infiltrators and their sympathisers that the parties indulging in the politics of appeasement will never be able to forget.

Amit Shah, Union Minister



People have given their mandate against the corruption, tyrannical rule and misgovernance of the Trinamool Congress.

Mohammed Salim, CPM state secretary

Pishi-Bhaipo model, graft & anger undo Didi

Defeat marks the most serious setback in Mamata's career and puts to test her leadership & political model

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

"He is no match for Abhishek," Mamata Banerjee recently said at an election rally. She did not clarify who the 'he' was. But it was not lost on anyone that the jibe was for none other than Suvendu Adhikari, as she added: "But he has always been criticising Abhishek."

Almost a decade after she allowed her nephew Abhishek to eclipse Suvendu within the Trinamool Congress, BJP used her aide-turned-adversary as the face of its Mission Bengal, which ended in a crushing defeat for her party and her 15-year-long rule.

BJP's landslide victory in West Bengal on Monday was comparable in scale to TMC's own in 2011, when Mamata's fight against the Left Front culminated in the end of the 34-year-long reign of the Communists.

The defeat brought into sharp focus a perception that had been building over the years — of an increasingly centralised, family-centric leadership, often framed by opponents as the "Pishi–Bhaipo" (aunt-nephew) model, which the Trinamool supremo failed to shake off.

For a leader whose politics has been defined by confrontation and an ability to channel public anger, this marks the most serious setback in her career and puts to test not just her leadership, but the political model she has built over decades.

TMC suffered a setback in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as BJP made inroads. But Mamata responded with a sweeping victory in the 2021 Assembly elections

Mamata built a governance model anchored in welfare delivery. But over time, the limits of this model became evident. The most damaging factor was her failure to act on corruption allegations — most notably the school recruitment scam — within her party and the government.

The public discontent against the 'Pisi-Bhaipo Sarkar' grew, as the outrage over the rape and murder of a young doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata reflected. Growing unemployment and limited industrial growth were not adequately addressed. BJP projected the election as a referendum on governance and corruption and vanquished TMC.

The defeat on Monday placed Mamata's heir apparent, Abhishek, and his methods under scrutiny. He had emerged as the principal force within TMC, controlling candidate selection and campaign strategy.

This election exposed the limits of a centralised model. A large-scale overhaul of candidates disrupted local networks, weakening mobilisation when voter discontent was already high.

As Suvendu, whom she did not consider a match for Abhishek, is likely to take the helm, the way ahead for Mamata is not just going back to street politics but also winning back people's trust. Whether she can reinvent herself will determine if this defeat marks a pause or the end of road for the stormy petrel of Bengal.

Suvendu: The man who ousted his mentor

From Nandigram to Bengal's power centre Nabanna, the 56-yr-old has always been rooted and relentless

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Suvendu Adhikari

"My people, particularly the elders, keep watch on me. They notice if my hairstyle or moustache has changed, if I've started wearing chains or watches, changed the brand or colour of my car, or even my cotton wear," Suvendu Adhikari said after an election rally in Nandigram. "They feel reassured when they see I haven't changed in the last two decades."

The remark carries a political message — one of consistency, rootedness, and commitment to his people despite changes in political affiliation and stature.

Suvendu now stands poised to succeed his former mentor Mamata Banerjee, after the BJP — which he joined in December 2020 after quitting the Trinamool Congress — swept the Assembly elections. Although the BJP did not formally project a chief ministerial face, its leadership signalled that Suvendu — who won Nandigram and beat Mamata in Bhabanipur — is the most likely choice.

"There is a consolidation of Hindu votes in favour of the BJP this time, along with an anti-incumbency wave against the TMC," a visibly elated Suvendu said. "Hindu EVMs are giving results for the BJP and Muslim EVMs for the TMC," added the 56-year-old, who once ended his speeches with both 'Jai Hind' and 'Khuda Hafiz'.

Suvendu first gained statewide prominence when he helped Mamata organise the 2006-07 agitation against land acquisition for a proposed chemical hub in Nandigram — a movement that reshaped West Bengal's politics and paved the way for the TMC's rise to power in 2011. It marked his transition from a district-level organiser to a state-level political player.

He did not start from scratch. His father, Sisir Adhikari, had built a strong political network in Purba Medinipur over decades, later serving as both a legislator and a parliamentarian.

In 2016, Suvendu won Nandigram and became a minister in Mamata's government, though remaining more an organiser than an administrator. He played a key role in the TMC's expansion phase. But as the role of Mamata's nephew Abhishek Banerjee grew, Suvendu's distance from the leadership became evident.

He resigned from ministerial responsibilities and, in 2020, joined the BJP. In the 2021 elections, he defeated Mamata in Nandigram, although the BJP failed to unseat the TMC. Since then, as the Leader of the Opposition, he has emerged as the BJP's most prominent face in West Bengal, openly embracing Hindutva politics.

Now, as he prepares to take charge of the state, Suvendu enters a more complex phase. The traits that defined his rise — organisation-building and a carefully cultivated image of grounded consistency — will now be tested in governance.

BJP's trusted generals made win a reality

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The saffron surge in Bengal on Monday was not scripted in one day. A decade's effort went into the BJP's impressive tally in the state.

Whether it is deploying its most effective leaders, like Sunil Bansal and Bhupendra Yadav, who had the experience of delivering key states, building the party's structure till the booth level or a fight on narrative — BJP had put its best foot forward in the border state. Five years ago, in 2021, after it faced a defeat in West Bengal even after a stellar increase in both tally and seat, BJP realised that winning the border state was now a matter of time. Sources said a few days after the defeat, where the party had increased its tally from three seats in 2016 to 77, and vote share from 10% to 38%, an internal report was drawn up to assess its position in the state.

"The report showed an estimate in every seat, that over 10,000-12,000 votes were cast which should not have been in the voter rolls...," a senior party leader said. The report set in motion a plan within BJP. Sources said Bansal had stayed in Bengal in the last few months in the run-up to the polls. Yadav brought organisational heft to the state.

Congress wins first seat in 2026 polls after barren show in 2021

KOLKATA, PTI: The Congress party on Monday won the Farakka seat and won in Raninagar, overcoming the humiliation of not winning a single seat in the 2021 assembly election in West Bengal.

Motab Shaikh, whose name was not in the electoral rolls at first and was included by a tribunal set up by the Supreme Court to look into the deletions, defeated his nearest rival of the Bharatiya Janata Party by 8,193 votes, while the Trinamool Congress candidate came third in the Murshidabad district constituency.

Shaikh secured 63,050 votes, while BJP's Sunil Chowdhuri got 54,857 votes and TMC's Amirul Islam got 47,256 votes, according to the Election Commission data.

Congress candidate Julfikar Ali is leading in the Raninagar constituency by 4,182 votes after the 14th round of counting over Trinamool Congress' Soumik Hossain.

West Bengal govt asks departmental secretaries to safeguard files

KOLKATA, PTI: The West Bengal government on Monday directed all departmental secretaries and heads of offices to ensure stringent safeguard of official files and documents.

In an order, Chief Secretary Dushyant Nariala said that no important paper or file should be taken out of offices under any circumstances without due authorisation.

The directive also prohibits any unauthorised copying or scanning of official records.

The order emphasised that all files, important papers and communications must be properly recorded and accounted for at all times.

It further stated that departmental secretaries and heads of departments will be personally responsible for ensuring compliance with these instructions "in letter and spirit".

Warning of strict action, the order said personal responsibility will be fixed in case of any deviation from the guidelines.

BJP supporters celebrate near the residence of Trinamool party chairperson Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Monday. AFP

Trinamool Congress supporters react to election updates in Kolkata. PTI PHOTOS

BJP looted 100 seats with EC help: Mamata

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The BJP "looted" at least 100 seats with the help of the Election Commission, Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee alleged on Monday, after her party's rout in the Assembly polls. The elections were held after lakhs of voters were disenfranchised due to the roll revision exercise.

"This Election Commission is actually a BJP commission," the 71-year-old Trinamool supremo told journalists after she came out of the counting centre in Bhabanipur, where she was defeated by her aide-turned-adversary Suvendu Adhikari. The outgoing chief minister said the BJP's victory was "immoral".

Mamata Banerjee

The TMC won only 69 constituencies and was leading in 11 others, whereas the BJP won 197 and was leading in 10 more, according to data released by the EC till 10.30 pm on Monday.

The BJP secured 45.85% votes, while the TMC got 40.80%. The difference of votes between the two main rivals appears to have helped the BJP win 127 seats more than the TMC.

The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal led to the deletion of nearly 91 lakh people, including 27 lakh for "logical discrepancies" — spelling mismatch, long or short age difference with parents, and surname changes — after adjudication by judicial officers. Only 1.607 of them were restored to the electoral rolls by the appellate tribunals before the two phases of polling on April 23 and 29.

'Party of monsters'

Mamata alleged that she was shoved and assaulted at the counting centre in front of central paramilitary forces. "I am a candidate, but I was not allowed (inside the counting hall). This (BJP) is a party of monsters. They have looted more than 100 seats. I lodged complaints with the Chief Electoral Officer, but to no avail."

The BJP's seats in the 294-member Assembly had gone up from just three in 2016 to 77 in 2021, with the vote share rising from 10.16% to 38.14%.

The Trinamool Congress had secured 48.02% votes and won 215 seats in 2021 — three more than its score in 2016.

"The BJP will not respond to any allegations made by Mamata ji. The public has answered all the allegations she levelled," BJP state unit chief Samik Bhattacharya said, responding to the allegations by the TMC supremo.

Jhalmuri trumps chop muri in Bengal's political kitchen

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a battle of jhalmuri versus chop muri in West Bengal, the former won handsomely, courtesy a push by Narendra Modi, and the BJP celebrated the victory on Monday with a machh-bhat (fish and rice) meal at the party headquarters in Kolkata.

For years, chop muri (fritters and puffed rice) dominated the political discourse in the eastern state because of Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee's preference for the popular snack. So much so that she once described making fritters as an "industry" that youngsters can explore as a livelihood option, and attracted snide remarks from many.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tries 'jhalmuri', street snack made of puffed rice, on the sidelines of public meetings ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections, in Jhargram. PTI FILE

But jhal-muri became a part of Bengal's political narrative on April 19 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi walked into a shop at Jhargram after a rally, purchased a pack of the popular snack, ate it and shared with others around.

Viral video

A video of him insisting on paying Rs 10 — despite the vendor's initial hesitation — went viral, garnering hundreds of millions of views across social media platforms. When the vendor asked if he eats onions, Modi replied, "Haan, khaate hain... dimaag nahi khaata, bas" (Yes, I eat them... I just don't eat brains), which resonated as a rare candid moment.

The saffron party, subsequently, gave further push to jhal-muri in its campaign, adding spice to a closely-fought election where Bengal's culinary identity was a hot topic, with Mamata claiming that if the BJP comes to power, it will impose a ban on fish and meat.

The BJP countered strongly, with top leaders claiming that a fish-eating, Bengali-speaking local will be the next chief minister.

Fish politics

Saffron candidates campaigned and central leaders like Anurag Thakur ate fish before the camera to show that the heartland party doesn't have a problem with Bengali dietary practices.

The issue of Bengal's culinary identity, however, didn't find much traction among the western and northern parts of the state, which voted en masse in favour of the BJP.

The humble jhal-muri brought the party home to a state that was home to its founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

Bengali platter

At the BJP state headquarters in Salt Lake, Kolkata, the victory was celebrated with a meal of doi-Katla (a delicacy made with Catla and curd), rice, lentils and vegetables. At the national headquarters in Delhi, the party distributed mishti doi, and what else — jhalmuri.

DH DECCAN HERALD

Political Theatre

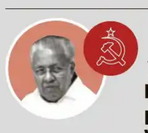
Kerala

Vote Share

Winners

7,487
Payyannur
V KUNHIKRISHNAN

4,978
Nemom
RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR



19,247
Dharmadam
PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Losers

2,991
Pala
JOSE K MANI

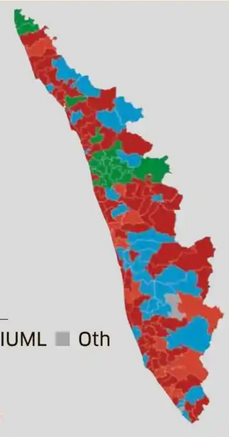
18,985
Aranmula
VEENA GEORGE

13,147
Palakkad
SOBHA SURENDRAN

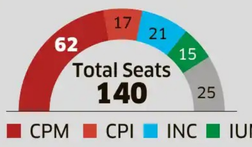
*Margin

Strike Rate (%)

Seats won/seats contested



2021 Poll results



Voices

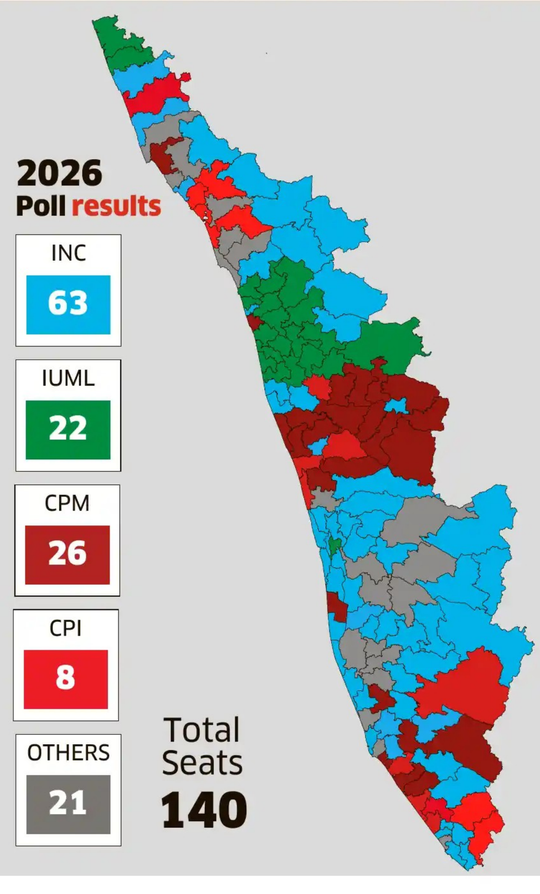
To all my brothers and sisters in Keralam, thank you for your faith and for your overwhelming support. The trust you have placed in us will be the UDF's guiding force as we work hard towards building a better future for each one of you.

Priyanka Gandhi, General Secretary, INC

The Left continues to have a strong presence among workers, peasants and unorganised sectors. But we have to examine why this is not adequately translating into electoral gains.

M A Baby, General Secretary, CPM

2026 Poll results



INC	63
IUML	22
CPM	26
CPI	8
OTHERS	21

Total Seats **140**

UDF does rerun of 2001 victory with 99 seats

Various guarantees announced by the Congress, including free travel for women in state buses, helped party

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) is returning to power in Kerala after 10 years with 99 seats in the 140-member Assembly, while the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) witnessed the worst ever defeat.

It was a rerun of the Front's 2001 performance. However, the tally crossed the century mark with the coalition partners.

While the Congress won 63 seats, its coalition partners IUML won 22, Kerala Congress (Joseph) seven and RSP three. Other coalition partners won one seat each and party-backed independents also won (three CPM rebels backed by UDF, RMP 1, KC (Jacob) 1, CMP 1 and Independent 1), leading to the addition of seven seats and taking the total to 102.

UDF chairman and opposition leader V D Satheesan termed 'Team UDF's' victory as a victory of Kerala's secular mindset.

"The LDF could not withstand the anti-LDF cyclone. People had a feeling that a third term for the Pinarayi government would be disastrous for the state," said veteran Congress leader A K Antony as he analysed the UDF's victory.

Various guarantees announced by the Congress, including free travel for women in state buses and schemes for youth, seem to have helped the party gain the support of women as well as youths.

LDF, which won 99 seats in the 2021 Assembly elections, is now reduced to 35. This was the result of the anti-incumbency against the 10-year Pinarayi Vijayan government as well as the resentment within CPM towards the party leadership.

While most of the ministers failed, Pinarayi's victory margin came down from 50,123 to around 19,247. Three CPM rebels scripted victory, and that too in the party stronghold of Taliparambu and Payyannur in Kannur.

The highest ever victory that Kerala witnessed was 111 seats by the then United front comprising Congress and CPI in 1977. The highest ever victory by the UDF and LDF was 99 seats in 2001 and 2021, respectively.

Cong CM race

Now that the UDF has scripted success, the race for the chief ministerial post will be gaining steam in the Congress.

While Satheesan, who has been reiterating that UDF would win over 100 seats, is likely to emerge as the frontrunner, senior leader Ramesh Chennithala and AICC general secretary K C Venugopal were also reportedly eyeing the post. Loyalists of these leaders have been carrying out a strong campaign.

BJP win

BJP reopened its account by winning three seats, including party state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar at Nemom in Thiruvananthapuram. The party could also considerably improve its performance in many seats, including Christian strongholds of central Kerala.

Satheesan gains edge as UDF weighs CM choice

He led the election campaign with 'Team UDF' pitch, confidently asserting that the Front would cross 100 seats

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Kerala Assembly LoP VD Satheesan in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. PTI

After a thumping victory, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) faces a key challenge in finalising its chief ministerial candidate, while also accommodating coalition partners.

UDF chairman and Opposition leader VD Satheesan has emerged as the top choice. He led the campaign with the 'Team UDF' pitch, confidently asserting that the front would cross 100 seats, even declaring he would go into political exile if it failed to secure a decisive mandate.

However, there have been both overt and covert campaigns by supporters of senior leader Ramesh Chennithala as well as AICC general secretary KC Venugopal.

Speaking after the results on Monday, Satheesan said he would not stake a claim to the post, as the party follows a procedure to finalise the CM.

Some senior leaders had earlier openly backed Chennithala and Venugopal as candidates for the top post. Venugopal's proximity to AICC leaders such as Rahul Gandhi, along with his influence among elected members, could be decisive factors.

At the same time, rival camps argue that Venugopal is not an MLA, and his elevation as CM could necessitate two bypolls — one for electing him as MLA and another for the Alappuzha Lok Sabha seat he would have to vacate.

AICC general secretary in charge of Kerala, Deepa Dasmunsi, who is currently in the state, is expected to soon initiate consultations with elected Congress members.

The views of coalition partners will also be crucial. IUML supremo Panakkad Sayyid Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal had recently endorsed opinion polls that projected Satheesan as the most favoured Congress leader for the CM post.

With several senior leaders, including KPCC president Sunny Joseph and former KPCC chief K Muraleedharan, winning their seats, and allies such as the IUML and Kerala Congress (Joseph) likely to demand a greater share in the Cabinet, the Congress may face a major challenge in accommodating all.

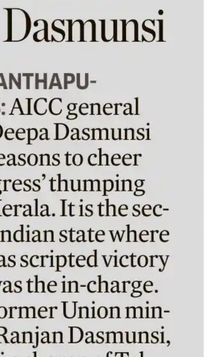
Cong victory extra sweet for Deepa Dasmunsi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: AICC general secretary Deepa Dasmunsi has more reasons to cheer in the Congress' thumping victory in Kerala. It is the second south Indian state where the party has scripted victory while she was the in-charge.

Wife of former Union minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Deepa was in charge of Telangana as the senior election observer when the Congress won the Assembly elections in 2023 and formed the government under Revanth Reddy. Deepa was widely credited for resolving issues in the party.

Deepa was given the charge of Kerala in December 2023, replacing Tariq Anwar. In the 2024 LS polls, 2025 local body elections and Assembly bypolls that followed, the Congress made an impressive performance.

Being actively involved in the party affairs in Kerala, she ensured that she was not misled or carried away by vested interest groups. This even helped in averting groupism playing the spoilsport for the party to a large extent in Kerala, especially with regard to candidate selection, said a Congress insider.



Fathima Thahiliya is IUML's first woman MLA; defeats LDF convenor

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) candidate Fathima Thahiliya has emerged as the party's first woman legislator. She defeated top CPM leader T P Ramakrishnan from the CPM stronghold of Perambra in Kozhikode.

Ramakrishnan, who is also the Left Democratic Front (LDF) convenor, was defeated by 5,087 votes. While Thahiliya secured 81,429 votes, Ramakrishnan got only 76,342.

The IUML, which has won 22 seats in the Kerala Assembly elections, is the second-largest constituent of the UDF after the Congress.

Thahiliya, who has been a prominent figure in the IUML, is a councillor in the Kozhikode corporation. Thahiliya said after the results were announced on Monday that she considered her win a victory of Kerala's secular mindset.

Pinarayi Vijayan resigns as chief minister after Left Front's debacle

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan tendered his resignation soon after the LDF's rout in the election.

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar accepted the resignation and requested him to continue as caretaker chief minister until alternate arrangements were made.

A question doing the rounds is whether Vijayan will serve as the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly.

The CPM had given age relaxation to 80-year-old Vijayan to contest the Assembly elections.

Meanwhile, CPM state secretary MV Govindan said that an in-depth analysis of election results would be made and corrective measures initiated.

As many as 13 ministers were defeated; Vijayan's victory margin also came down by around 30,000 votes.

Congress MP K C Venugopal offers sweets to Leader of Opposition in Kerala Assembly and UDF candidate from Paravur constituency VD Satheesan in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. PTI

BJP candidate from Nemom Assembly seat Rajeev Chandrasekhar celebrates in Thiruvananthapuram. PTI

UDF supporters celebrate in Kochi on Monday. PTI

BJP makes a remarkable comeback in Kerala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

BJP candidate V Muraleedharan, celebrates after winning Kazhakkoottam seat. PTI

The BJP has had a significant showing in the Kerala Assembly elections this time, reopening its account by winning three seats and considerably increasing its vote share, even in Christian strongholds.

Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar won back the party's maiden Assembly seat in the state — Nemom in Thiruvananthapuram — by defeating CPM leader V Sivankutty by a margin of 4,978 votes.

BJP veteran O Rajagopal had won the Nemom seat in 2016, opening the account for the saffron party in the Kerala Assembly. The party failed to retain it in the 2021 elections.

Former Union minister V Muraleedharan, who was the runner-up in Thiruvananthapuram's Kazhakoottam in 2016, won the seat by defeating CPM leader and former devaswom minister Kadakampally Surendran by just 428 votes.

Chathannoor in Kollam, where the BJP has been consistently increasing its vote share since 2016, also witnessed the lotus blooming. Local BJP leader B B Gopakumar won by a margin of 4,398 votes.

Even though the Central government's move to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act caused a major setback for the saffron party just ahead of the polling, BJP candidates — like party general secretary Anoop Jacob and vice-president Shone George — considerably increased votes in Christian strongholds like Thiruvalla and Pala in Central Kerala.

Chandrasekhar said that even though the Congress and the CPM said the BJP would not win any seats, the party had proved its growing influence in Kerala.

BJP camps are hopeful that winning three seats in Kerala in this election would mark the beginning of the party's journey towards attaining power in the state, as had been witnessed in West Bengal.

However, the saffron party also faced an embarrassment as Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Rajya Sabha member George Kurian finished third at Kanjirapally in Kottayam.

Congress leader K Karunakaran's daughter Padmaja Venugopal, who contested as a BJP candidate from Thrissur, also finished third, despite the party having won the Thrissur Lok Sabha seat in 2024. The BJP had high hopes from at least 10 seats, but many prominent leaders — like Sobha Surendran and K Surendran — could only finish as runners-up.

Red rout: How the Vijayan factor cost the CPM dear

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Pinarayi Vijayan

India will not have a communist-led government for the first time since November 1969 (barring a two-month gap), a development many attribute to the CPM leadership's refusal to rein in Pinarayi Vijayan, who dominated the party in Kerala.

The only solace, though minuscule, came from West Bengal, where the CPM managed to win a seat — after securing none in 2021 — and from Tamil Nadu, where the CPM and the CPI emerged victorious as part of the DMK-led alliance.

Some say that the party did not learn lessons from West Bengal, where it was decimated after losing power in 2011, and repeated the same mistakes.

In Kerala, 82-year-old Vijayan remained the power centre, diluting inner-party checks and leading to a concentration of power, which is uncharacteristic of a Left party.

During the campaign itself, the CPM leadership was made aware of voters' "anger" against Vijayan, who is often perceived as "arrogant", even as local MLAs remained popular. The final results suggest that this factor played a role in the defeat of some promising young lawmakers.

This is the same CM who bucked Kerala's trend by returning to power in 2021 after benching several sitting MLAs and then began his second term with a new batch of ministers, excluding experienced hands, leading to considerable resentment.

Interestingly, the CPM and its allies went to the polls amid a warning from Left sympathisers that a third consecutive win could be detrimental to the party's future and allow the BJP to make inroads if the Congress were kept out of power for another five years.

Eye-opener

While the CPM, as the coalition leader, may not have lost much of its vote share, the defeat in Kerala should serve as an eye-opener. Three rebels who left the party just before the polls won as independents in Left strongholds in an open challenge to Vijayan. Two of these victories were in Kannur, Vijayan's home district.

The wins in Payyannur — where a rebel candidate raised allegations of financial corruption against the sitting MLA — and in Taliparamba — where a rebel opposed the nomination of state secretary M Govindan's wife PK Shyamala — were due to the party's inept handling of the crisis. Similarly, in Ambalapuzha, the party misread veteran leader G Sudhakaran's influence.

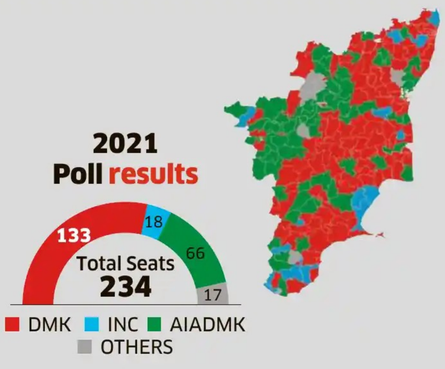
The results also showed that Vijayan's post-2024 manoeuvre of attempting to consolidate Hindu votes — by indicating a shift away from minorities — also did not work.

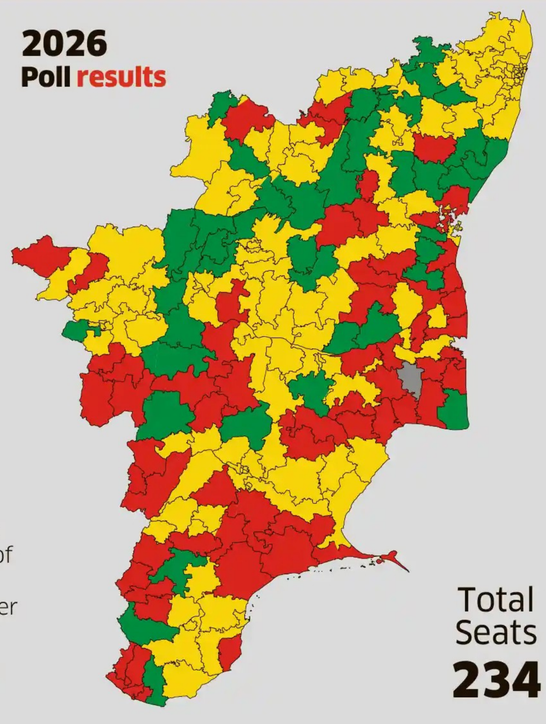
The CPM central leadership may have to take the blame for the defeat, as it refused to take control of the government as it had done in the past. Vijayan was given the last say, subjugating others to silence.

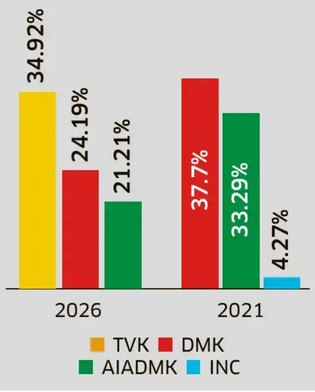
DH DECCAN HERALD

Political Theatre

Tamil Nadu







Winners

98,110 **Edappadi** **EDAPPADI K PALANISWAMI**

16,620 **Gobichettipalayam** **KA SENGOTTAIYAN**

6,805 **Bodinayyakannur** **O PANNEER SELVAM**

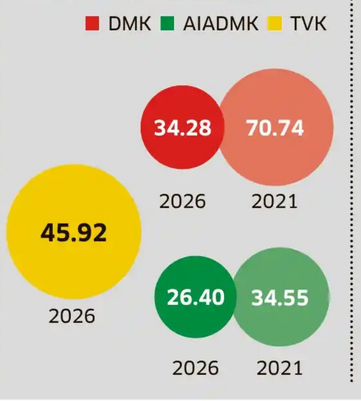
Losers

54,246 **Sriperumbudur** **K. SELVAPERUN-THAGAI**

70,565 **Karaikudi** **S SEEMAN**

5,989 **Sattur** **NAINAR NAGENTHIRAN**

*Margin



Voices

I bow down to the people of TN for your verdict. Happy to see in my land, people have risen in one voice and spoken – no to buying of votes, no to dynastic politics.
K Annamalai, BJP leader

People have a lot of expectations from the incoming team. DMK will accept people's decision and will stand with them with all the elected representatives. Winning and losing are part of the game.
Udhayanidhi Stalin, DMK leader

Vijay wave drowns TN's Dravidian model

DMK's citadel has never crumbled this badly — not even when MGR stormed to power in the state in 1977

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

The 2026 polls were seen as the DMK's best shot at scripting history by returning to power for a second consecutive term.

However, Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin not only failed to break the 77-year-old party's 'single-term jinx', but he also lost the government to actor C Joseph Vijay. The debacle mirrored the 1977 loss of his father, M Karunanidhi, to superstar M G Ramachandran.

At the start of 2026, the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA) seemed invincible. Political pundits believed the contest was only for second place, predicting that Vijay's TVK would merely split the anti-incumbency and anti-DMK votes.

However, the alliance began to fracture in mid-February when the Congress almost broke away to ally with the TVK. Other partners also began complaining publicly about the ruling party's 'big brother' attitude regarding seat-sharing.

Stalin's attempt to expand the alliance by inducting the DMDK also backfired. Long-standing allies were upset that actor Vijayakanth's party was allotted 10 seats, while their own shares were reduced. The DMK performed better than its partners, who were completely submerged in the TVK wave.

The defeat was deeply personal for Stalin, who was humbled in Kolathur by former colleague V S Babu. Stalin is only the third CM to lose his own Assembly seat while in power — after M Bhaktavatsalam in 1967 and J Jayalalithaa in 1996. This loss signifies the widespread anger against his government.

The Vijay tsunami was so strong that the DMK was pushed to second place in the state and lost most of the 16 seats in its stronghold of Chennai. The party's citadel had never crumbled this badly — not even when MGR stormed to power in 1977.

It took the Kollywood star just one election to demolish the DMK's Chennai fortress, where they had won every seat in 2021. For comparison, it took his predecessor J Jayalalithaa nearly 20 years of active politics to achieve a similar feat when she won 14 of the 16 Chennai seats in 2011.

Stalin clearly failed to see the storm of anti-incumbency building up against his government. The first warning sign appeared after a stampede at a TVK rally that killed 41 people. Even the victims' families stood behind Vijay.

It has become clear the DMK underestimated Vijay's rise and made little effort to counter him. Defying predictions, Vijay made massive inroads into the DMK's traditional vote bank, including minorities, while also hurting the AIADMK.

While the DMK expected Vijay to take only a small portion of the Opposition vote, he snatched nearly the entire anti-incumbency bloc from the AIADMK. The party's citadel had never crumbled this badly — not even when MGR won in 1977.

Voters focused on issues like law and order and drugs, ultimately responding to Vijay's plea: "One chance, only one chance."

The 'young boy' who took down heavyweights

Actor-turned-politician used his cult status to create a perception that he was the sole harbinger of change

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Thalaiyalanganathu Seruvendra Nedunchezhian (King Nedunchezhian, who won the war at Thalaiyalanganathu).

C Joseph Vijay borrowed this phrase from iconic Sangam literature while formally launching his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on October 27, 2024. Legend has it that Nedunchezhian, a young king his mighty opponents dismissed as "inexperienced", ultimately won the battle. Today, that "chinna paiyan" (Vijay) has become a "ketta paiyan" for the DMK and the AIADMK, who have ruled Tamil Nadu for decades.

Vijay has now not merely demonstrated decisively that there was room for another Dravidian party in Tamil Nadu, but also capitalised on the yearning of the electorate — fatigued with the two parties — for change.

Neither Vijay nor his strategist racked their brains in search of an abstract ideology. He simply declared that he would follow both Dravidian and Tamil nationalist ideologies. He accepted Periyar's ideals, with the notable exception of his atheism.

The cult status Vijay enjoys among his supporters was leveraged to the hilt to create a perception that the actor-politician was the sole harbinger of change. The fact that he didn't even visit all districts in the state after donning the politician's hat didn't deter his admirers. The strategy was clear from Day One: Vijay — nothing more, nothing less.

"Cult does wonders. It gives an advantage to be at the top, even if you are a fresher. Mark my words. He will be the chief minister in 2026," one of his aides told *DH* way back in 2023, even before Vijay formally launched the TVK.

His strategists knew TN politics well enough to term 2024 — the year Vijay launched the TVK — a seminal moment in state politics after 1949 and 1972, when the DMK and the AIADMK were formed, respectively.

They also perfectly positioned 2026 as a pivotal year, much like 1967, when the DMK overthrew the Congress and established the Dravidian movement, and 1977, when MGR defeated the DMK to govern the state.

Vijay's victory is much bigger than those in terms of vote share. Also, the DMK and the AIADMK had existed for years and had experienced leaders, while the TVK had nothing.

To be fair, Vijay's arrival and promise of a share in power disrupted the landscape, with the possibility of a coalition government dominating the political discourse for months.

The Congress and smaller parties must be rueing not aligning with him before the polls. They should thank their stars as Vijay needs their support now: He is about 11 seats short of a majority.

AINRC-BJP alliance returns to power in Puducherry

CHENNAI, DHNS: N Rangasamy on Monday led the AINRC-BJP alliance to a comfortable second consecutive term in Puducherry by defeating the Congress-DMK alliance, which was beset with internal problems.

While the AINRC won 12 seats, the BJP bagged four seats. The LJP — led by lottery baron Santiago Martin's son Jose Charles Martin — and the AIADMK won one each. Overall, the NDA won 18 seats in the 33-member Assembly. The TVK, a newcomer, won two seats. Its ally, the NMK, bagged one.

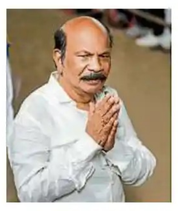
The Opposition DMK won five seats and the Congress one. The alliance didn't take off as the Congress fielded candidates in at least six seats allotted to alliance partners.

Rangasamy wins
Chief Minister N Rangasamy won from both the seats he contested — Thattanchavady and Mangalam.

He defeated the Congress' V Vaithilingam — the national party's CM candidate — from Thattanchavady.

Elections for 30 seats were held on April 9. The Puducherry Assembly also has three members who are nominated to the House.

Ex-colleague turns nemesis for Stalin



VS Babu

CHENNAI, DHNS: VS Babu quit the DMK after he was blamed for not working enough for his party leader MK Stalin in Kolathur constituency in 2011 elections. Stalin won the seat by a slender margin of 2,734 votes after he shifted from Thousand Lights in the city.

Fifteen years later, the same man was fielded by the TVK to take on Stalin from Kolathur. And Babu delivered the job with precision. He defeated Stalin by a margin of 15,192 votes.

Kolathur constituency in Chennai was carved out of the former Purasaiwalkam and Villivakkam Assembly segments following the delimitation process in 2008.

Babu, a former DMK MLA from Purasaiwalkam (2006-2011), was the in-charge for Kolathur seat in the 2011 Assembly elections.

Palaniswami wins by record margin

EDAPPADI, PTI: AIADMK chief K Palaniswami on Monday won by a record margin of 98,110 votes from Edappadi Assembly constituency in the district.

The former CMr defeated his nearest rival, an Independent candidate Premkumar K, by securing 1,48,933 votes. This is Palaniswami's sixth big win from the constituency in Salem district since the 1989 Assembly elections.

Also, he trounced the DMK candidate Kasi C, who polled 44,011 votes. In sharp contrast to these sweeping mandates, several constituencies witnessed nail-biting finishes where every vote proved decisive.

The lowest victory margin in the state was recorded in Paramathi-Velur, where AIADMK candidate Sekar S of managed to scrape through by a mere 308 votes.

Outgoing Chief Minister and DMK chief MK Stalin arrives at the party headquarters in Chennai on Monday. He was defeated by TVK candidate VS Babu by a margin of 8,795 votes in the Kolathur Assembly constituency. PTI

Supporters hold portraits of TVK chief Vijay in Chennai on Monday. PTI

Workers remove tents and other arrangements at the DMK headquarters in Chennai. PTI

How AIADMK lost the plot and Opposition space

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

TVK supporters celebrate with fireworks in Chennai. PTI

From day one, it was clear that actor-politician C Joseph Vijay and his Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) were gunning for a big chunk of AIADMK votes, aiming to position themselves as the "prime challenger" to the DMK.

But the AIADMK just couldn't read the writing on the wall. The party has now been pushed to the third slot, winning or leading in just 48 seats, posting its second-worst performance in Assembly elections since its inception in 1972.

It will take a long time for the AIADMK to recover from losing the tag of primary anti-DMK force to the TVK, which has unseated the DMK from power.

Party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami not only acknowledged Vijay's political rise a little too early but even claimed the actor-politician refrained from criticising the AIADMK in his first conference because "we did good work".

While supporting Vijay during the Karur stampede and blaming the DMK could be seen as "political courtesy", EPS made a blunder by declaring that the "first step towards an alliance had been initiated" after spotting TVK flags at his public meeting.

Over the past year, the AIADMK had repeatedly invited the TVK to join the NDA, inadvertently betraying a fear that their existing alliance was not enough to unseat the DMK in the 2026 elections.

It also exposed the inherent weakness of an NDA coalition that has failed to win a single election since its formation in 2019, sending a clear message: they believed they could not win without Vijay. It is an open secret that the TVK rejected the AIADMK's alliance offer well before the latter officially rejoined the NDA in April 2025.

On the other hand, Vijay leveraged this weakness to frame the 2026 contest as a direct fight between the DMK and TVK. By branding the AIADMK and BJP as "others", he successfully courted MGR and J Jayalalithaa loyalists and the anti-DMK vote bank.

As a result of a series of costly mistakes, EPS now carries the ignominy of leading the AIADMK to a successive defeat in Assembly elections for the first time in its history. The party has not won an election since Jayalalithaa died in 2016, and with this latest defeat, EPS leadership is about to come under intense scrutiny.

The BJP even left seat-sharing to EPS' terms, giving him a free run — though young leaders in the saffron party warned about weak seats being allotted to them — and his campaign was powerful.

Somehow, the AIADMK-BJP combo lacked the punch.

Perhaps Vijay's projection of the election as TVK versus DMK captured the majority of anti-DMK and anti-incumbency votes straight into his camp, leading to his historic victory.

Actor to face multiple challenges as CM

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Supporters of TVK celebrate the party's performance in Chennai on Monday. AFP

Set to be the chief minister, C Joseph Vijay will face multiple challenges in running the government, including fulfilling promises made to the people that will further burden the exchequer and satisfying the aspirations of his party members who have been elected to power for the first time.

51-year-old Vijay will have to find ways to shore up funds to implement the promises he has made to the people, such as providing eight grams of gold and a silk saree for girls at the time of their marriage, a gold ring for newborn girls, and direct benefit transfers of Rs 2,500 monthly to women under the age of 60.

Implementing the one-time schemes would require about Rs 37,800 crore, while the government needs Rs 60,000 crore annually to provide the monthly stipend to over two crore women, as per projected population figures. Another Rs 12,408 crore per year will be needed to implement the Annapoorani scheme (six free LPG cylinders per family).

Tamil Nadu's debt has been mounting for the past few years, and it will touch about Rs 11 lakh crore in the 2026-2027 financial year. Vijay might be forced to postpone the implementation of the schemes by a few months, given the financial situation.

He will also have to find ways to deal with the BJP-led Union government on several issues — the state has been denied of its due under the Samagra Shiksha scheme for not implementing the three-language policy.

Vijay will also be expected to maintain the momentum of the state's investment climate by continuing to attract companies in varied sectors — TN has been continuously posting record growth in the past few years.

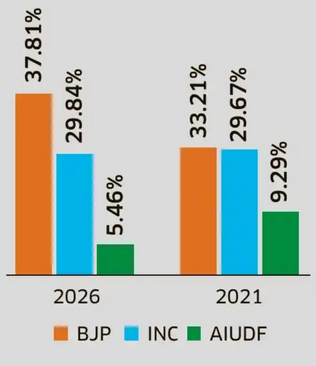
Tamil Nadu has become the locus of Apple manufacturing in India, with Foxconn and homegrown Tata Electronics Private Limited employing about a lakh people.

DH DECCAN HERALD

Political Theatre

Assam

Vote Share



Winners

17,272
Sibsagar
AKHIL GOGOI

49,667
Dispur
PRADYUT BORDOLOI

35,380
Binnakandi
BADRUDDIN AJMAL

Losers

46,701
Nazira
DEBABRATA SAIKIA

9,984
Khowang
LURINJYOTI GOGOI

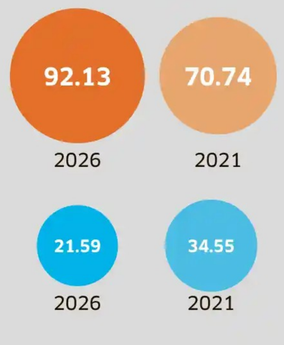
26,743
Tamulpur
PRAMOD BORO

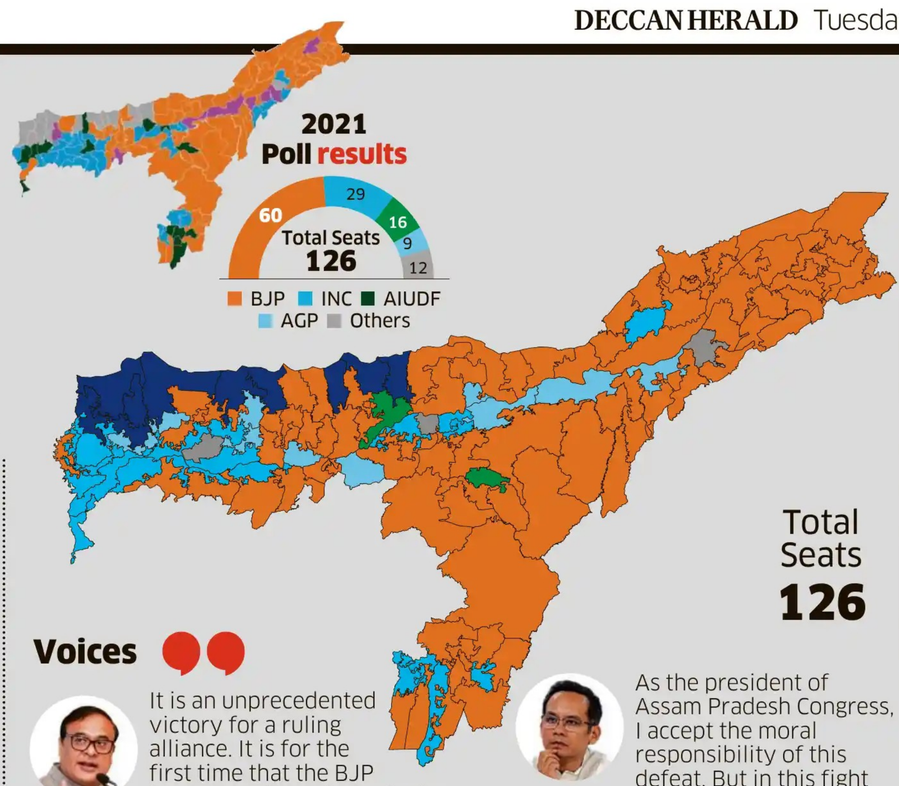
*Margin

Strike Rate

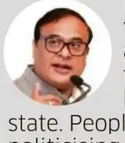
Seats won/seats contested

BJP CONG





Voices



It is an unprecedented victory for a ruling alliance. It is for the first time that the BJP has secured a majority in the state. People of Assam punished Cong for politicising singer Zubeen Garg's death

Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam CM

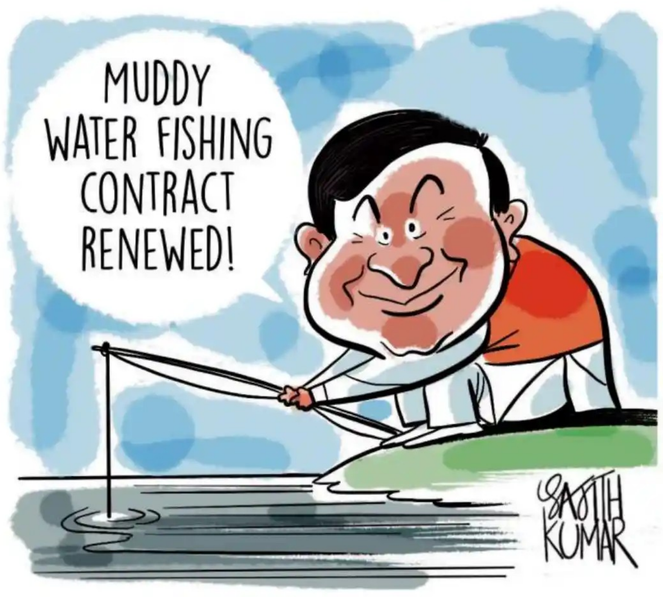
As the president of Assam Pradesh Congress, I accept the moral responsibility of this defeat. But in this fight of ideals, we will always remain steadfast and continue to fight for the rights and dignity of the people.

Gaurav Gogoi, Assam INC president

BJP scores hat-trick on 'anti-infiltrator' stand

Congress faces its worst result in 25 years, top Opposition leaders defeated

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS



Riding on Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's tough "anti-infiltrator" stand and development projects, BJP and its allies in Assam on Monday ensured the saffron party's third straight term in office by registering a record victory in 102 seats in the 126-member Assembly.

BJP alone bagged 82 seats, 18 more than the magic figure, while two of its regional allies, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF), bettered their seat counts by winning 10 seats each.

All ministers and senior leaders registered victories with strong margins against the Opposition candidates. Two Congress turncoats, Pradyut Bordoloi and Bhupen Kumar Borah, also won.

BJP registered victories in 41 out of 43 seats in Assamese-dominated Upper Assam, a region where the Congress-led alliance tried to make a comeback after 10 years. In the Bodoland region, BJP and its ally BPF bagged all 15 seats while in Barak Valley, the saffron party won in all nine seats where Hindu Bengalis were deciders.

The Congress won in the remaining four where Muslim voters called the shot.

The Congress was reduced to just 19 seats, its worst performance in the past 25 years with its leader Gaurav Gogoi biting the dust. Other top leaders like Debabrata Saikia and Ripun Borawere also defeated.

In the Opposition camp, only Akhil Gogoi and Mehbood Mukhtar of Raijor Dal managed to win in Sivasagar and Dhing, a Muslim-majority seat, respectively.

"By giving us such a record number of seats, people have once again reposed their faith in the developmental works we have done and the steps taken to protect Assam from the threat of Bangladeshi infiltrators," Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday evening.

Soon becoming the CM in 2021, Sarma intensified an eviction drive targeting the Bengali-speaking Muslims and "pushing back" many to Bangladesh. This, according to observers, helped BJP consolidate the indigenous communities as well as the Hindus against the Congress and the Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF.

Ajmal's party, which contested in 27 seats, managed to win only two, the worst show since its formation in 2005.

BJP leaders also stated that the cash incentive schemes targeting women, students and tea garden workers helped BJP build a vote bank. BJP has provided monthly assistance of Rs 1,250 to 40 lakh women since 2020 and it promised to increase the same to Rs 3,000 in the next five-years.

"The land patta given for the first time to tea garden workers also helped us retain all the seats in tea gardens," said the BJP leader.

The Congress camp, including Gaurav, did not issue any statement regarding the verdict. However, Congress insiders blamed inexperience of Gaurav as the main reason behind the debacle of the Opposition.

Assam verdict confirms leader status of Himanta

He promised a rout of Congress and AIUDF, which he delivered

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

"Hat-Trick with a century [sic]," Himanta Biswa Sarma posted on X on Monday evening as the BJP and its allies won the Assam Assembly elections for the third straight term, this time with a record 100-plus seats for the extended alliance in the 126-member House.

The Assam CM had predicted this months in advance. As he geared up for the polls, he made two more predictions: One was that the Opposition Congress would win only 20-22 Muslim-majority seats, and two, the Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF would be "wiped out" from Assam politics.

The verdict on Monday was an almost exact match: The Congress won 18 Muslim-majority seats and one more. It was the party's worst performance in the state in the past 25 years. The AIUDF, too, put up its worst performance, winning just two seats.

Meanwhile, the BJP's tally increased from 60 in 2021 to 82 this time, while its regional allies — the Asom Gana Parishad and the Bodoland People's Front — also bettered their numbers, winning 10 seats each.

Stamp of approval

The verdict not only meant that Assam was among the few states where the saffron party retained power for the third straight term (like Gujarat), but also served as a stamp of approval on Sarma as a leader and a poll strategist.

Many considered the elections a test of Sarma's leadership, given that it was his first electoral battle as chief minister.

"We sincerely believed that 100+ seats for the NDA was possible, and people blessed us wholeheartedly for the kind of development works we have done with Narendra Modi's blessings and love for Assam," Sarma told reporters after the results.

Hindutva politics

Many in the BJP believe Sarma's strong stand against the "Bangladeshi infiltrators" helped the party consolidate the indigenous people and Sanatani Hindus against the Congress and the AIUDF.

"The way the Assamese, tribals, and Bengali Hindus voted for us suggests their approval of Sarma's tough stand against Bangladeshi infiltrators," a BJP leader said.

Since he became the CM for the first time in 2021, the Sarma government evicted many Bengali-speaking Muslims from forests and other government land. He also adopted the "push back" route to send back "illegal migrants" into Bangladesh. At the same time, he continued to induct leaders from the Congress into the BJP.

On Monday, Sarma appealed to Hindu leaders in the Congress to "strengthen the fight ahead against Bangladeshi infiltrators". He, however, did not answer clearly when asked whether he would take the oath as the CM for a second term.

Sons of three former Congress CMs defeated

GUWAHATI, PTI: Sons of three former chief ministers were defeated in the Assam Assembly elections, among whom were state Congress president and MP Gaurav Gogoi and Leader of Opposition in the outgoing Assembly Debabrata Saikia.

Gogoi, whose father, late Tarun Gogoi, is the longest-serving CM of the state, having helmed Congress governments for 15 years, lost his Jorhat seat to sitting BJP MLA Hitendra Nath Goswami. The state Congress chief is a third-time MP, representing Jorhat in the Lok Sabha.

Son of two-time CM late Hiteswar Saikia, Debabrata Saikia, failed to retain the family bastion of Nazira. Once represented by his father and later by his mother Hemoprava Saikia, Saikia had been elected from Nazira successively since 2011, and was the Leader of the Opposition since 2016. However, he lost the seat this year to Mayur Borgohain of BJP by over 46,000 votes. The third ex-CM's son to taste defeat was Diganta Barman, whose father late Bhumidhar Barman had acted as the chief minister when Hiteswar Saikia had died while in office.

Barman failed to retain the Barkhetri constituency, losing to BJP's Narayan Deka by over 84,000 votes.

JMM fails to open account in Assam

RANCHI, PTI: The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) failed to open its account in Assam despite aggressively contesting 16 seats in the 126-member Assembly.

The party, however, said it has secured a footprint in Assam, as two of its candidates emerged as runners-up and 14 others secured the third position.

The JMM secured 1.17% of the vote share till 8 pm, which is more than the vote share of CPI, CPM and CPI(ML) Liberation combined, a party office-bearer said.

Congress Assam poll in-charge Jitendra Singh resigns

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress General Secretary Jitendra Singh on Monday resigned as in-charge of Assam, "taking responsibility" for the "deeply disappointing" performance in the Assembly elections.

Singh wrote to party president Mallikarjun Kharge, saying he is tendering his resignation with "immediate effect" as it is in the "best interest of the organisation" that he "step aside" to allow for "fresh leadership and renewed direction".

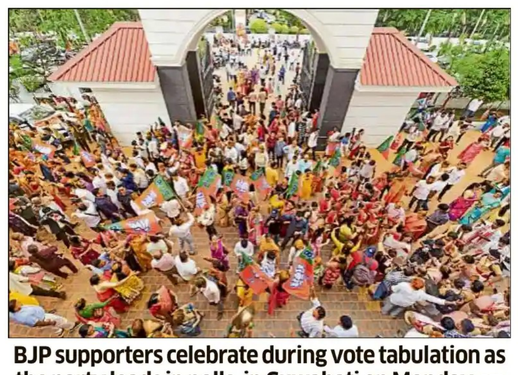
Congress won 19 out of the 101 seats it contested this time with a vote share of 29.84%. In 2021, the party had won 29 of the 95 seats it contested with a vote share of 29.67%.

"The recent election results have been deeply disappointing, and I take full responsibility for my role in the outcome. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to meet the expectations of the people of Assam, whom we sought to serve," Singh said in his resignation letter.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have served and for the trust placed in me during my tenure. I thank the people of Assam, as well as the Congress workers and leaders of Assam, for the love and respect they have shown me," he said.

He said he remained committed to the values and vision of the Congress.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal with Assam Chief Minister and BJP candidate from Jalukbari constituency, Himanta Biswa Sarma, after the latter won in the state Assembly election. PTI

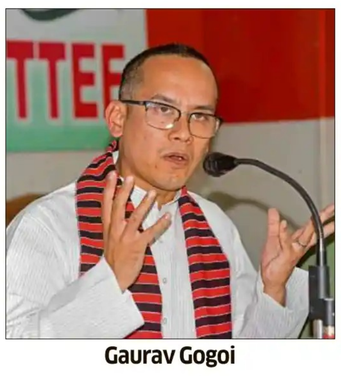


BJP supporters celebrate during vote tabulation as the party leads in polls, in Guwahati on Monday. PTI

BJP supporters celebrate the party's win in Guwahati on Monday. PTI

Gaurav & his Ahom card fall flat as Cong hits 25-year low

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS



Gaurav Gogoi

Ebar juj ekhon hobo (there will be a fight this time). Gaurav Gogoi tried to make this a punchline soon after he was made the president of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee in May 2025.

In Gaurav, the party got a leader after the vacuum left behind by his father and former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, who died in 2020. Gaurav's surprising victory in the Jorhat Lok Sabha seat in 2024, despite the delimitation, encouraged the Congress to field him for Assembly polls for the first time in Jorhat.

The 43-year-old Gaurav repeated the same punchline in March when three Gogois —Gaurav, Akhil and Lurinjyoti—joined hands. He decided to ally with Akhil's Raijor Dal and Lurinjyoti's Assam Jatiya Parishad with an eye on Ahom votes in Upper Assam.

However, the result was disastrous, with the Congress under Gaurav's command facing its worst performance in the past 25 years with just 19 seats. Gaurav too lost veteran BJP leader Hitendra Nath Goswami by a margin of over 23,000 votes.

Lurinjyoti failed to break the jinx of his defeat since 2021, and his party lost in all 10 seats. Only Akhil Gogoi managed to win in Sivasagar for the second straight term, while Mehboob Muktar registered the second victory for his party in Dhing, a Muslim-majority seat in Central Assam.

Eighteen out of the 19 constituencies where Congress candidates registered victories are Muslim-dominated. Joy Prakash Das is the only non-Muslim winner in North Assam's Naoboicha.

Inexperience blamed

Congress insiders in Assam blamed Gaurav's inexperience as the main reason for the party's dismal performance.

"He only tried to create hype over the Gogoi equation without realising the fact that Ahoms are no longer as influential as they used to be before the delimitation. Instead, he should have focused more on countering the communal narrative created by the BJP and Himanta Biswa Sarma to get the votes of the indigenous voters back," a Congress leader told *DH*.

He also blamed the lack of clarity in the manifesto on how Congress would solve the state's foreigners issue. "Himanta, on the other hand, was very clear, constantly targeting the Bengali-speaking Muslims and implementing schemes such as land patta to tea garden workers and increasing quota for the ethnic communities."

Commenting on Congress's strategy of banking on three Gogois, Himanta Biswa Sarma said people rejected Congress as it sought to win the election by trying to divide people based on caste.

"There is no place for caste-based politics in Assam, and this is where Gaurav Gogoi got wrong," he said.

AIUDF's worst show after Cong desertion

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A deserted view of Rajiv Bhawan, the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee office in Guwahati on Monday. PTI

The debacle for the Maulana Badruddin Ajmal-led All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) in Assam politics started in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls when it was whitewashed.

The Congress's Rakibul Hussain snatched its only seat — Dhubri, Ajmal's bastion since the AIUDF's formation in 2005 — by a margin of more than 10 lakh votes.

The downfall for the AIUDF — once seen as the "saviour" of the state's 35% Muslim population — continued on Monday as it put up its worst performance in the Assembly elections with just two seats.

After being deserted by the Congress, the AIUDF contested 27 Assembly seats, but only Ajmal and Majibur Rahman registered victories — in Binnakandi and Dalgaon, respectively.

Ajmal's party, which emerged as the second-largest during Tarun Gogoi's tenure in 2011, started losing its ground after the draft list of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was published in 2018.

The list left out 19.06 lakh people, nearly half of whom were Bengali-speaking Muslims, AIUDF's vote bank. Eventually, the party's inability to protect or support Bengali-speaking Muslims in tackling the citizenship crisis led to its downfall.

The anger against AIUDF was evident in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, when the party's tally was reduced from three to just one seat.

Faced with political uncertainty and BJP's constant charge on Ajmal as a "protector of infiltrators", AIUDF tried hard to remain a part of the Congress-led Opposition alliance for the 2026 Assembly polls.

However, Gaurav Gogoi's decision to sever ties with AIUDF to counter BJP's charge of the Congress being "pro-Muslim" left Ajmal's party in disarray. Subsequently, several of his MLAs quit and joined either the Congress or the AGP ahead of the April polls.

A student's guide to finding part-time job

BHIMA RAO

Every student who wants to take up a part-time job will have initial hesitation, shyness, an inferiority complex and a big fear is that they will not get a job without work experience. In reality, all part-time jobs can be done with little training or by gaining exposure. It is important to have interest, passion, zeal, the ability to learn, and a positive mindset. Students should prepare to enter the job market systematically and go the extra mile to secure the plentiful jobs available.

In general, part-time jobs do not require high qualifications or the skills of a scientist, doctor, or lawyer. Most part-time jobs are doable, e.g., delivery boy or girl, hotel waiter, kitchen assistant, receptionist or attendant. However, certain jobs like graphic design, content writing, video editing, design, coding, or digital marketing will require brief on-the-job training or short-term training courses.

Many ways

Finding a part-time job is very easy, but sometimes it is very tough. It all depends on where the students live and the opportunities available there. In major cities, there will be plenty of opportunities in well-developed areas. A good number of part-time jobs will be available in areas with plenty of commercial activity or industries. However, finding the most suitable high-salary jobs requires a mix of targeted search strategies, optimised personal contacts, a proactive approach, and the use of local and digital networks. Below are a few practical tips to find part-time jobs.

■ **Define your priorities and constraints:** how many hours you can work daily and per week, your preferred schedule (evenings, mornings, or weekends), and your commute radius (distance from

the workplace). Keen to work remote-only, or ready to work in an unorganised sector (retail stores or hotels, etc.), or organised sectors (BPO, Hospitals, MSMEs, etc), expected wage per day, work duration (two-four hours or full-time in one shift or seasonal vs ongoing), Job skill levels required and preferred industry type. Be prepared to take up a particular job or jobs, or be ready to take up any job that comes my way.

■ **Prepare to enter the job market:** Prepare a short résumé tailored to part-time roles, emphasising relevant, recent experience and availability. Two-line elevator pitch summarising what you can do, hours available, flexibility and highlight your top skills and strengths.

■ **Start applying to jobs:** Send resumes by email and to all WhatsApp contacts, Facebook. Send resumes to specific part-time job portals and local job groups, if any, and start applying to poster advertisements. Target local businesses: cafes, retail stores, gyms, tutoring centres, care homes, and delivery services. Visit in person during off-peak hours with your résumé to find out about job availability.

■ **Apply directly to employers:** Apply on company careers pages for chains (Café Coffee Day, Starbucks, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken, local Malls/ supermarkets, Petrol bunks). More often, they prefer part-time and locals.

Send cold emails to local small businesses, MSMEs, restaurants, hospitals/ clinics, and event management companies that offer very specific short-term jobs on weekends, holidays, or evening shifts.

■ **Network strategically:** Tell friends, family, neighbours, and professional contacts about your availability and the type of work you want to do. Attend community events or industry meetups; mention you're available for part-time assignments. Use Naukri and LinkedIn: update the headline to "available for part-time" and post a brief profile highlighting strengths, skills, and availability. Contact local recruiters/ job consultants.

■ **Tapping community resources:** It is very rare for universities and colleges to offer part-time jobs to students on campus. Still, one can try for part-time campus jobs, research assistant roles, and tutoring. Sometimes, religious or community centres and NGOs need part-time help, paid volunteers, or interns. One can also find market survey jobs, which are low-paying but immediately available during certain seasons. Join for event-based work: festivals, marriage functions, sports and summer camps.

■ **Staffing firms and outsourcing agencies:** Look for jobs, both part-time and full-time, in admin, warehouse, and security services. Speciality staffing for hospitality, healthcare, or IT can offer part-time contract assignments.

Finally, keep an eye on newspaper advertisements and job portals. Watch all national and local newspapers regularly, including local/regional newspapers. Scout suitable jobs in job portals or LinkedIn groups.

Next part: How to apply for part-time jobs

(The author is a human resource adviser)

(Mail us: dheducation@deccanherald.co.in)

Exploring green studies

Environmental education is becoming a mainstream subject with job options on the rise in the sustainability sector, writes Vijay Prakash Srivastava

For decades, mankind has exploited nature and caused enough damage to it. Now, for a decade or so, concern about environmental loss has become more visible. Today, individuals, groups, and activists do their bit to nurture and shape the environment in a desirable way. Expanding environmental education can boost that.

Environmental education as an academic discipline has existed for a long time. However, this was hardly considered a mainstream subject. Now is the time to reevaluate the value of this education and make young people aware of the opportunities it offers.

Environmental education is unique in its various dimensions. Some are described below:

■ **Environmental science:** This popular subject helps students learn about forests, water, food, minerals, and energy resources available in nature, as well as biodiversity and the need to conserve it. Concepts of the carbon footprint, carbon credits, and clean development practices are covered in this course. Environmental impact assessment of the extraction and use of land/mineral/water resources, as well as disaster management, is studied in this science.

Environmental science can be studied as a full-fledged subject at the undergraduate level. BSc and MSc courses are widely available at universities and their affiliated colleges, with some engineering institutes also offering them. MSc in Environmental Science is open to students who have completed a BSc in physics, chemistry, biology, or mathematics. B.E. and B. Tech students are also considered eligible.

■ **Environmental engineering:** Environmental engineering focuses on developing and applying tools to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, protect ecosystems, and improve environmental quality. Environmental engineers work to improve public health by developing technologies for recycling, waste disposal and pollution control. They are key to creating solutions for clean drinking water, waste recycling, rain harvesting and renewable energy sources.

Courses in environmental engineering are available at engineering and technological institutions, though not all of these offer this branch. The good thing is that many IITs and NITs offer B.Tech, M.Tech, and integrated programmes in this branch of engineering. For example, IIT Bombay offers B.Tech-M.Tech (dual degree), M.Tech, M.Tech-PhD, and PhD programmes in environmental engineering.

■ **Environmental economics:** A sub-discipline of economics, environmental economics examines the effects of economic and population growth on the environment and how climate change affects economies. The subject provides guidance on estimating the costs and benefits of different environmental actions. Projects involving the cutting of trees, the displacement of people, etc., have to be evaluated in terms of the economic costs.

Environmental economics can be studied at prestigious institutes such as the Madras School of Economics, IIT Roorkee, and the TERI School of Advanced Studies. Economics of Climate Change is offered as an elective in the MSc Economics programme at Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics, University of Bengaluru. Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research has a Master of Science in Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

■ **Environmental sociology:** This is a subfield of sociology that studies the interactions between societies and their natural surroundings, including the environment. It seeks to understand how social structures, cultural norms, and human behaviours impact the environment, and how, in turn, environmental changes and pollution affect societies.

In India, environmental sociology is mostly offered as an elective paper or specialisation in M A Sociology programmes, though a number of foreign universities offer master's programmes in the subject.

■ **Environmental law/policy:** Environmental law courses cover environmental governance in national and international contexts; trade and environment; the right to a healthy environment as a human right; multilateral environmental agreements and dispute settlement mechanisms; climate change policy; urbanisation/tourism and the environment; the National Green Tribunal and its powers, etc.

India has a network of law universities, a few of which offer courses or specialisations in environmental law. Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, conducts a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Law. The Worldwide Fund for Nature-India and the National Law University, Delhi, jointly offer a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Law and Policy.

In recent years, many IIMs, IITs, and other bodies have launched master's programmes in Public Policy that also cover environmental policy.

An MA in Environment and Development by Dr B R Ambedkar University, Delhi, may be considered by interested students. The websites of TERI and the Centre for Environmental Health and Safety may be consulted to learn about various useful courses.

Based on the course undertaken by the students, they may apply for suitable career opportunities. Like courses, work opportunities are also varied. Roles exist in pollution control, waste management, policymaking, consulting, compliance, climate change, and disaster management.

Manufacturing units, mining companies, engineering companies, public and private sector organisations, non-governmental organisations, international agencies, big consulting firms and regulatory bodies have requirements for environmental experts.

(The author is a human resource development professional)

The psychology of work in AI era

NAGARAJ SUBBARAO

The changing times we live in lead to a potentially disruptive, volatile, and unpredictable work environment. Jobs have undergone a paradigm shift, and the question it leaves humans with is how organisations and leaders will cope.

People operate under the assumption that change is fundamentally technological and that it drives industrial productivity. Work disruption has, however, caused humans to realise that it is not just technological but highly rooted in psychology. From an Applied Behavioural Psychology perspective, we are witnessing a profound shift in how individuals experience work, identity, and meaning.

During COVID-19, the sudden transition to working from home prompted this realisation. Organisations, however, focus on continuity while employees or individuals grapple with psychological issues that are far more profound.

The loss of social reinforcement shows that humans, as social animals, perform far better in groups. When social interactions were absent, it left an important psychological scaffold. Remote work has resulted in an enhanced sense of psychological isolation, leading to increased levels of anxiety.

Just as humans began adapting, the next disruption arrived—Artificial Intelligence.

From a behavioural lens, AI is creating a different kind of disruption. A seeming lack of cognitive load coupled with rising boredom and anxiety.

AI systems are taking over not just repetitive work, but increasingly cognitive tasks. While this boosts productivity, it also reduces the sense of agency individuals derive from effortful work. As one hi-tech worker told me recently, he watches AI work! In human history, this is an unprecedented moment.As Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi observed, "Growth happens at the edge of our limits, not at our comfort zones."

When AI removes that stretch, work risks becoming easier, but less meaningful, faster but less engaging, less efficient, and psychologically hollow.

This turns motivation theory on its head and challenges us to arrive at new solutions for the world of work. Peak life experiences are often achieved not in states of relaxation, but when individuals extend their physical or mental capacities to their limits.

It is also well known that AI threatens jobs, and many individuals face job loss. Humans are wired to respond strongly to uncertainty and loss.

Even the possibility of job displacement can trigger Anxiety and reduced innovation. So we now face a paradox: AI is enhancing productivity but potentially eroding intrinsic motivation and psychological safety. Driven by big bucks, psychological safety was a casualty. It now faces almost certain demise. This shift is strongly reinforced by empirical evidence. Journal of Applied Psychology research highlight that workplace support is the strongest predictor of engagement.

Moreover, Nature Human Behaviour sheds light on how social isolation increases anxiety. This rose by 30% during the pandemic. Further, observational learning—central to human development—declines by over 20% in remote settings.

AI usage and its rising popularity create a different paradox: 64% of employees report reduced cognitive effort with AI tools. More than 40% report increased disengagement, which aligns with Csikszentmihalyi's concept of flow, in which optimal performance emerges from the balance between challenge and skill. When challenge diminishes, so does meaning.

The challenge for organisations is to redesign work along with workflows. Leaders must intentionally reintroduce challenge and mastery. Create social connection loops and reinforce purpose and identity at work.

BULLETIN BOARD

Equity analyst internship

Folok Dutta is hiring an equity analyst intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of accounting, business research, and financial analysis, and who have effective communication skills, written English proficiency, and reading skills, can apply by May 31. The stipend is Rs 10,000 - 15,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/72353f.

Cloud computing internship

Trustable Solutions Private Limited is hiring a cloud computing intern who can work from home. Students with Amazon Web Services (AWS), cloud computing, and Microsoft Azure can apply by May 31. The stipend is Rs 4,000-6,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/57e6a9.

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Biz Bytes

Rohit Jain takes over as RBI Dy Guv

MUMBAI, PTI: Rohit Jain on Monday took over as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and will look after 10 departments, including forex and fintech, the central bank said in a statement.

He replaced T Rabi Sankar, whose extended tenure ended on Saturday.

Jain was Executive Director of the Reserve Bank before being elevated to the post of Deputy Governor. The government has appointed him Deputy Governor for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Tata Tech clocks Q4 net profit of 8%

NEW DELHI, PTI: Tata Technologies Ltd on Monday reported an 8% rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 204.17 crore during the March quarter. It had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 188.87 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year, the company said.

Consolidated revenue from operations in the fourth quarter was at Rs 1,572.22 crore compared to Rs 1,285.65 crore a year ago, it added.

Sobha Q4 net profit jumps to Rs 92 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: Realty firm Sobha Ltd on Monday reported a more than two-fold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 91.83 crore for the March quarter on higher income. Its net profit stood at Rs 40.85 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income rose to Rs 2,029.92 crore during the fourth quarter of the last fiscal year from Rs 1,270.73 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year, according to a regulatory filing.

During the 2025-26, Sobha Ltd's profit doubled to Rs 193.40 crore from Rs 94.68 crore in the preceding year.

Nissan debuts Gravite CNG

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nissan Motor India Private Limited on Monday announced the launch of government-approved CNG retrofitment kit for the all-new Nissan Gravite, featuring a segment-first smart twin-cylinder technology that retains full 7-seater modularity and usability. Available at an introductory price of Rs 82,999 across 16 states, the Gravite CNG is designed to offer customers a smarter, more economical and environmentally-conscious mobility solution, while retaining ample space in the third row, a statement said.

Tata Chemicals posts Rs 2,116 cr net loss in Q4

NEW DELHI, PTI: Tata Chemicals Ltd on Monday reported a sharp widening of consolidated net loss to Rs 2,116 crore in the January-March period of FY26, weighed down by a Rs 1,837-crore goodwill impairment charge in the US and weak soda ash prices across geographies.

Net loss stood at Rs 49 crore a year earlier, according to a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations fell 2% to Rs 3,438 crore from Rs 3,509 crore in the year-ago period, while total expenses rose to Rs 3,660 crore from Rs 3,612 crore.

Mfg activities remain sluggish; input costs surge to 44-month high

Exports bright, as firms welcome fastest upturn

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's manufacturing activities remained sluggish for the second consecutive month in April, dragged by muted demands and elevated input costs due to the West Asia conflict, as per an industry survey report released by S&P Global on Monday.

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing witnessed mild recovery rising to 54.7 in April, from a four-year low of 53.9 recorded in the previous month. The April performance was the second-weakest since 2022.

The two key sub-components of the PMI, new orders and output, registered their second worst performance in three-and-a-half years.

A PMI reading above 50.0 signals an expansion in the sector, whereas a value below 50.0 indicates contraction.

Disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict led to a surge in input prices for manufacturing. Input costs rose at the sharpest pace in 44 months. The companies partially passed the price on to consumers, leading to the sharpest increase in output charges in six months.

The data is based on a survey conducted among around 400 manufacturing companies.

"Spillovers from the West Asia conflict are becoming more evident, particularly through inflation: input costs increased at the fastest pace since August 2022, and output prices rose at the quickest rate in six months," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

Despite the challenges, Indian manufacturers remain optimistic towards growth prospects. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

"Even so, output, new orders (including exports) and employment all grew moderately, pointing to continued resilience in India's manufacturing sector," she added.

Higher prices for aluminium, chemicals, electrical components, fuel, leather, petroleum products and rubber, led the jump in input costs. The surveyed companies attributed the hikes to the West Asia conflict. The overall rate of inflation climbed to its highest since August 2022. Subsequently, goods producers lifted their fees to the greatest extent in six months.

Exports was a bright area, with firms welcoming the fastest upturn since last September. New export orders expanded sharply at the start of the first fiscal quarter, with the pace of growth reaching a seven-month high.

Manufacturing firms reported better demand from clients in several countries, including Australia, France, Japan, Kenya, China, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the UK.

Despite the challenges, Indian manufacturers remain optimistic towards growth prospects. The overall level of positive sentiment in April was its second-highest since November 2024.

"Confidence was pinned on hopes that marketing efforts will bear fruit and that pending projects will be approved," S&P Global noted in the monthly survey report.

Manufacturers recruited additional workers at the start of the first fiscal quarter. Moreover, the rate of job creation was marked and the strongest in 10 months. "Hiring growth reflected expansion plans, according to anecdotal evidence," S&P Global said.

Vedanta plea against Adani's JAL bid rejected

NCLAT finds no merit in issues raised by Vedanta

NEW DELHI, PTI

A company law appeals court on Monday rejected a challenge by mining billionaire Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd to the winning bid by Gautam Adani's group for bankrupt realty firm Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL).

Anil Agarwal

Gautam Adani

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) did not find merit in the issues raised by Vedanta and dismissed its two petitions.

A Bench comprising Chairperson Justice (retired) Ashok Bhushan and Technical Member Barun Mitra held that the Committee of Creditors (CoC) were right in preferring Adani Group's Rs 14,535 crore bid over Vedanta's resolution plan for JAL.

That decision was approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), against which Vedanta went into an appeal in NCLAT.

"No grounds have been made out by the appellant (Vedanta) to interfere with the decision of the adjudicating Authority (NCLT)," NCLAT order said. "There is no merit in the appeal. Both appeals are dismissed. There shall be no orders to pass."

NCLAT said the decision of the CoC was based on "overall consideration of the respective resolution plan and was taken in its commercial wisdom," said the appellate tribunal.

JAL was admitted for insolvency proceedings in June 2024 after it failed to pay bank dues exceeding Rs 57,000 crore. The resolution process drew 28 expressions of interest, with six final bidders including Vedanta, Adani Enterprises and others. Adani and Vedanta emerged as frontrunners, with Adani's proposal scoring higher on upfront recovery and overall value.

The CoC approved Adani's plan in November 2025 with a 93.81% vote. Vedanta later submitted a revised offer, valued at Rs 16,070 crore, but creditors declined to consider it, citing rules barring post-deadline changes.

Vedanta argued the process lacked transparency and that its revised bid offered superior value. Creditors countered that the revised proposal was submitted only after Vedanta became aware it was trailing the winning bid.

The appellate tribunal had earlier declined to stay implementation of Adani's plan, a decision subsequently upheld by the Supreme Court, which directed an expedited hearing, while requiring key implementation decisions to receive tribunal approval.

Monday's ruling clears the way for Adani's takeover of JAL unless Vedanta challenges it in the Supreme Court.

West Asia conflict: Fertiliser subsidy likely to shoot up

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid rising global prices of urea and other fertiliser inputs due to the ongoing West Asia crisis, the government's fertiliser subsidy bill for the 2026-27 financial year is likely to overshoot the budget estimate of Rs 1.71 lakh crore.

"We know that the costs have risen. Cost of both urea and other fertilisers showing an upward trend... There will surely be an increase, but as of now, cannot say," Aparna S Sharma, Additional Secretary, Department of Fertilisers told media persons here on Monday.

She said despite supply chain disruptions caused by the regional crisis, the fertiliser availability for the kharif 2026 season remains "strong and stable".

Domestic production in March-April totalled 67.76 lakh tonnes, comprising 40.72 lakh tonnes of Urea, 5.39 lakh tonnes of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), 13.65 lakh tonnes of NPK and 8 lakh tonnes of Single Super Phosphate (SSP).

This was supplemented by 17 lakh tonnes of imports arranged through coordinated efforts by the ministries of Ports and External Affairs.

For May, the department has set a production target of 22 lakh tonnes of urea, 4 lakh tonnes of DAP, and 8 lakh tonnes of NPK. Some urea plants that were temporarily shut have been secured with gas supply and are expected to resume operations soon.

A global tender for urea imports has already been processed, with supplies slated to arrive in May-June. The government has also floated a separate global tender for 19 lakh tonnes of NPK fertilisers to meet peak demand.

The Department of Agriculture has estimated total fertiliser requirement for kharif 2026 at 390.54 lakh tonnes. States have already stocked 195.71 lakh tonnes — nearly 50% of the requirement — reflecting better planning and advance procurement.

State-wise demand has been finalised and advance stocking completed. While the Centre ensures overall availability, redistribution of fertilisers within districts will be handled by state governments.

"We are having regular meetings with states. As the season approaches, a 24x7 contingency cell will be set up to tackle redistribution issues," Sharma added.

LPG consumption dips 16% in April amid supply disruptions

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Cooking gas consumption in India dipped by over 16% in April as supply disruptions due to the West Asia conflict hit availability for both commercial users and households, official data showed on Monday.

Consumption of LPG declined to 21.98 lakh tonnes in April, which is 16.16% lower than 26.22 lakh tonnes recorded in the same month last year, according to data released by Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

When compared with April 2024, it was lower by 10.51%. It was also lower on a month-on-month basis. In March 2026, the first month of the US-Israel-Iran conflict, LPG consumption in India stood at 23.8 lakh tonnes.

ATF consumption in April fell to 7.61 lakh tonnes, 1.37% lower when compared to the same month last year.

However, petrol and diesel consumption rose. Petrol consumption jumped from 34.49 lakh tonnes in April 2025 to 36.69 lakh tonnes in April 2026, registering a growth of 6.36%.

Diesel consumption rose marginally from 82.61 lakh tonnes in April 2025 to 82.82 lakh tonnes in April 2026, a growth of 0.25%.

While the prices of LPG and jet fuel have gone up sharply since the beginning of the war on February 28, petrol and diesel prices remain largely unchanged.

FKCCI seeks relief from LPG price hike for industry

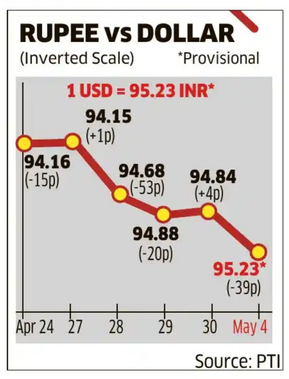
BENGALURU, DHNS: The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), has expressed serious concern over the unprecedented Rs 993 increase in the price of 19 kg commercial LPG cylinders, stating that the steep hike will severely impact multiple industries and trigger widespread inflationary pressure.

Uma Reddy, President, FKCCI said the latest revision represents a nearly 45%-50% increase in a single instance, pushing commercial LPG prices to approximately Rs 3,100-Rs 3,200 per cylinder in Bengaluru, and beyond Rs 3,000 in major cities across the country. She described the hike as one of the sharpest increase in recent times, placing an unsustainable burden on business. The hotel and hospitality sectors, which are heavily dependent on commercial LPG, are among the worst affected. Restaurants, caterers, and small food establishments are already operating on thin margins and will now be forced to either absorb heavy losses or pass on the burden to consumers.

"This unprecedented Rs 993 hike in commercial LPG prices is a severe blow to the hospitality sector. A nearly 50% increase in a single revision is simply unsustainable and will inevitably lead to higher prices for consumers," she said. She urged the Union Government to take immediate corrective measures, including rationalization of taxes on commercial LPG, and roll back rise in prices.

Rupee falls 39 paise to all-time low of 95.23 against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee fell 39 paise to close at an all-time low of 95.23 against the US dollar on Monday, as the ongoing West Asia tensions are causing volatility in global markets, keeping oil prices high and raising fears of inflation and economic slowdown.



Forex traders said Brent oil, hovering near $110 per barrel, is putting pressure on oil-importing economies like India.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 94.95 against the US dollar, then lost ground and finally settled for the day at its lowest-ever closing level of 95.23, registering a fall of 39 paise over its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 94.84 against the American currency. The Indian currency recorded its previous lowest closing level of 94.88 on April 29. Stock exchanges and currency markets were closed on Friday on account of Maharashtra Day.

"The Indian rupee has hit a record low as the dollar recovered and crude prices held firm. This ongoing surge in oil prices, combined with foreign fund outflows, is putting a visible strain on India's trade balance and broader economy. Persistent dollar demand is expected to keep the pressure on the rupee in the short term, driving the USD/INR higher toward the 95.35 and 95.70 levels," said Dilip Parmar, Senior Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.26, up 0.11%.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 1.37% at $109.65 per barrel in futures trade.

Investors' focus was on counting of votes for the West Bengal state elections, IFA Global said in a research note, adding, "A BJP victory would be positive for domestic assets. However, the impact is likely to be short-lived as global geopolitics will continue to be the driving factor given direct impact on supply chains and industry."

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex rallied 355.90 points to settle at 77,269.40, while Nifty climbed 121.75 points to 24,119.30.

FIIs purchased equities worth Rs 2,835.62 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

BHEL net profit jumps over 2.5 times to Rs 1,290 crore in January-March

NEW DELHI, PTI: State-owned BHEL on Monday reported a more than 2.5 times jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,290.47 crore for the quarter ended March 31, supported by growth in revenues mainly from the power segment.

It had reported a net profit of Rs 504.45 crore in the same period a year ago, the company said in an exchange filing.

During the fourth quarter, its total income surged to Rs 12,553.50 crore from Rs 9,142.64 crore in the January-March period of preceding 2024-25 financial year.

The revenue from the power segment during the quarter was at Rs 9,509.85 crore, up from Rs 6,192.41 crore in January-March FY25.

For the entire FY26, the company's net profit jumped to Rs 1,600.26 crore, from Rs 533.90 crore a year ago.

Total income rose to Rs 34,589.83 crore during the fiscal ended March 2026, from Rs 28,804.79 crore in FY2024-25.

In FY26, the Rs 25,406.71 crore revenue contribution came in from the power segment, higher from Rs 20,937.25 crore earned in FY25.

The board of the company also approved a final dividend of Rs 1.40 per share of Rs 2 each for the fiscal ended March 31, 2026.

FOUR-YEAR FREEZE

'No govt fiscal support planned for retailers' fuel losses'

NEW DELHI, PTI

The government has no plans to extend financial support to state-owned fuel retailers for the losses they are incurring on selling petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) below cost, an official said on Monday.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are incurring substantial losses on sale of petrol and diesel after they extended a four-year freeze on revision in retail rates despite input crude oil prices shooting up since the start of the West Asia conflict over two months back. They have also, for the first time in more than two decades, begun posting losses on jet fuel since last month, as they passed on only a part of the desired increase in prices needed to bring rates at par with cost.

"There is no proposal before the government to support oil marketing companies (for their losses)," said Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

While ATF prices for domestic airlines last month increased by 25% — a fourth of the desired increase — there was no change in rates this month, even though the prices for foreign airlines were hiked by over 5%. Similarly, despite under-recoveries of Rs 25-28 a litre, there has been no increase in petrol and diesel prices.

Domestic LPG prices were hiked by Rs 60 per 14.2-kg cylinder on March 7, but that was not enough to cover all the increased cost, and oil companies are booking under-recoveries or losses. The government has, in the past, covered for the under-recoveries on LPG through budgetary subsidy support.

Sharma said there is no increase in retail prices of petrol and diesel, as well as domestic LPG, even though supplies have been disrupted due to the war in West Asia. Only rates of bulk or industrial diesel, as also commercial LPG — the one used by hotels and restaurants — have been increased.

The bulk diesel and commercial LPG make up for only 10% of the fuel, she said. "Every effort has been made to protect the consumers (by not raising retail prices). Consumer interest has been kept in mind when deciding on the revision," she said.

At the last monthly revision in rates on May 1, ATF price for international airlines was hiked by $76.55 per kl, or 5.33%, to $1,511.86 per kl. This came on top of a more than doubling of prices for them on April 1 to $1,435.31 per kl.

Alongside, prices of commercial LPG — the one used in hotels and restaurants — were hiked by Rs 993 to a record high of Rs 3,071.50 per 19-kg cylinder. The rates for 5-kg FTL or market-priced LPG cylinders were hiked from Rs 549 to Rs 810.50 per bottle.

The 5-kg FTL cylinder now costs just a shade lower than the Rs 913 rate for a 14.2-kg cylinder used in household kitchens (called domestic LPG).

Also, prices of bulk diesel, used by industrial users like telecom signal towers, were increased from about Rs 137 per litre to over Rs 149 a litre. These rates compare to the Rs 87.62 a litre price of diesel available at petrol pumps.

The ATF for domestic airlines will continue to be priced at Rs 1,04,927.18 per kl as state-owned oil companies have decided to absorb the rise in global fuel prices to protect airlines and consumers.

Sharma said the actions of oil marketing companies have been to check inflation.

IN BRIEF

Karnataka post 4-2 victory

▸ Jhonstar Mark, Premish T, Meitram Kangleinganba and Nirupam Gowda all found the back of the net as Karnataka beat Odisha 4-2 in the Swami Vivekananda U-20 men's National Football Championship in Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh on Monday, reports DHNS.
Result: Karnataka: 4 (Jhonstar Mark 13th, Premish T 25th, Meitram Kangleinganba 80th, Nirupam Gowda H 90th+2) bt Odisha: 2 (Ronk Majhi 17th, Pankaj Tanty 83rd).

Kiaan finishes 2nd in Thailand

▸ Mumbai's Kiaan Shah, representing Rayo Racing, produced his best result in international karting, with a second place finish in round 2 of the RMC Asia Trophy, reports PTI from Pattaya.

The 15-year-old clocked 51.218s on the 1.2 km Bira circuit, just 0.118 seconds behind Thailand's Pannu Stienmonkong, who was the fastest in the qualifying.

Kiaan started fourth in heat 2, but lost a place at the start.

Samvit, Sriman star in Engrades' big victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: After Samvit Shastri's 131-ball 168, Sriman Pratyush Reddy Alamuru picked up 5/41 to power Engrades Cricket Club to a comfortable 122-run victory over Yankees Cricket Club in the KSCA Under-16 Inter-Club cricket tournament here.

Riding Samvit's ton, Engrades CC put on 309/9 in 50 overs. Later, Sriman made the going tough for the opponents' batters as Yankees CC were bowled out for 187 in 48.2 overs.

Brief scores: Engrades CC: 309/9 in 50 overs (Samvit Shastri 168, Gnanesh Subramani 39, Mullamuri Santhosh 33; Shrevin Das 4-43, Nachiket Yatin Athale 2-46) bt Yankees CC: 187 all out in 48.2 overs (Aradhya N Sheety 32, Shrevin Das 36; Sriman Pratyush Reddy Alamuru 5-41).
Modern CC: 229 all out in 46.4 overs (Nethieek V Dave 27, Suriyha M 107, Khubaib Pendari 40; Samar Veer Vinod 5-36, Cherish Kumar GN 4-30) lt to Visweswarampuram CC (2): 230/7 in 35.3 overs (Ruchitaksh Indrekar 136 n.o., Cherish Kumar Gn 28; Krishna Keshav Hebbar 2-40, Mohammed Faraaz Sharif 2-20).
Visweswarapuram CC (1): 97 all out in 31.3 overs (Sanjit Sathish 31; Ahaan Dash 3-14, Paarth Madan 5-10) lt to Vijaya CC: 98/3 in 17.4 overs (Saad Rayyan Khan 39 n.o., Panshul Sharma 37; Swastik Ekhe 2-38).
Jolly Cricketers: 156 all out in 38.2 overs (Krithik Sai M 26, Saatvik Sanikop 49; Samyak Kanstiya 2-21, Lalitaditya G 2-29) lt to Century Cricketers: 159/1 in 20.4 overs (Shamanth KC Raju 72, Hrithvik Shetty 59 n.o.).
The Bangalore Cricketers: 291 all out in 49.4 overs (Dherein V 84, Vedanth K 109; S Dhananjay 3-51, Satvik K 5-59) bt City Cricketers (2): 165 all out in 45 overs (Parthaan R 26, Aadyot Dubey 25; Karthik J 2-22, Ishaan S Kumar 2-29, Ayup Singh Kunwar 2-30, Aryaman Srivastava 2-15).
Merchants CC (1): 61 all out in 20.4 overs (Vivaan Gupta 4-16, Anirudh Katige 3-8, CVD Karthik 2-7) lt to Malleswaram Gymkhana: 62/0 in 6.1 overs (Koman Prasad 41 n.o.).
Wadiyar CC: 241/9 in 50 overs (Yuvaraj D Kumar 28, Nirav Bisht 41, Sai Vignesh Srikanth 113, Pratham Rao 26; Raghavan Krishnakumar 5-40, Avyukt Mukkadala 2-53) lt to Dooravani Cricketers (1): 243/6 in 38.3 overs (Ayaan Waheed Mohammad 29, Krishav Karthik 79 n.o., Sampath Kumar M 70 n.o.; Sai Vignesh Srikanth 3-44).
Friends Union CC (1): 185 all out in 40.3 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 107, Preyansh Naveen 42; Samarth BK 2-30, Chetas H 4-19, Aadyanth 3-41) lt to Blue Diamond Cricketers: 191/2 in 24.2 overs (Yeshwanth K 109 n.o., Nischal M Gowda 27).
Caravan Cricketers: 197 all out in 42.4 overs (Shashank HK 73, Ayush 39; Divij Sai Prasad 2-37, Aniket Chaturvedi 3-36, S Rahul Raju 3-19) bt Vijaya CC, Malur: 133 all out in 31.1 overs (Rajveer Chowdhary 4-40, Vivaan Bhusad 4-9).
Swastic Union CC (1): 152 all out in 44.4 overs (Aadyot Pandey 49; Vivaan Singh 3-35, Ryan Tomar 3-21) lt to Spartons SC: 153/1 in 23.2 overs (Ryan Tomar 70 n.o., Vastvik Sharma 52).
Vivekanagar Cricketers: 172 all out in 37 overs (Aayat Rahim Khan 39, Sachit S Galatagi 29, Jagan TP 29, Likhith P Jadhav 27; Vignesh Subhramaniyan 6-41, Rahul Jena 2-35) bt Young Lions Club: 160 all out in 46.4 overs (Tarun G 36; Shashank Prabhakar 5-30, Sachit S Galatagi 2-16).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: DC vs CSK **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

UCL: Arsenal vs. Atletico Madrid **(12:30 am, Wednesday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

La Liga: Sevilla FC vs Real Sociedad **(12:30 am, Wednesday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

ISL: Mumbai City FC vs East Bengal **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2, FanCode.**

IFL: Gokulam Kerala vs Aizwal **(6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, SonyLIV.**

FOOTBALL

Big Saka boost for Arsenal

Gunners take on Atletico in finely poised semis return leg

LONDON, AFP

Bukayo Saka's return from injury has jolted Arsenal's attack back into life just in time for the Gunners to dream of a Premier League and Champions League double.

Saka scored and provided an assist for Viktor Gyokeres as Mikel Arteta's men bagged three goals for the first time in 16 games in Saturday's 3-0 win over Fulham.

All three goals arrived before Saka was withdrawn by Arteta at half-time to protect the England winger, who has been nursing an Achilles injury in recent months.

Arteta had one eye on Tuesday's visit of Atletico Madrid, with Arsenal hoping to reach just the second Champions League final in their history.

The clash is evenly poised at 1-1 after a first leg dominated by penalty decisions in the Spanish capital.

Both sides netted from the spot, but Arsenal thought they should have had a second penalty when Eberechi Eze was clipped inside the box.

Saka was involved in that move and his introduction as a substitute helped Arsenal turn the tide to finish the first leg on the front foot.

The 24-year-old was recently handed a new four-year contract, reportedly making him the highest earner at the club.

Saka has struggled to find his best form since a serious hamstring injury ruled him out for three months last season.

Arteta, though, is hoping the attacker is both physically and mentally fresh to end Arsenal's long wait for silverware.

Saka's quick feet and deadly delivery left Gyokeres with the simple task of tapping into an empty net to settle the Premier League leaders' nerves early on against Fulham.

The roles were reversed for the second as Saka latched onto the Swede's pass and arrowed a shot into the bottom corner for his 10th goal of an injury-disrupted campaign.

"He certainly made a difference. He made two actions that decided the game and we know what he's capable of," said Arteta.

"He's come back in the most important period of the season and now he's fresh.

"His mind is fresh, his hunger is at the highest possible height and I think he needed a performance like that to impact the team, so that's a big platform for Tuesday."

Robert Pires was part of the only previous Arsenal side to reach the Champions League final, a 2-1 defeat to Barcelona in 2006.

The Frenchman's wing play made him a legendary figure in north London for his part in two Premier League titles under Arsene Wenger and he believes Saka can have an inspirational impact on his team-mates.

"He's found his sharpness again, he's brought back his dribbling, his drive," Pires told AFP.

"When you have players like him, capable of making the difference, it already does everyone a lot of good.

"Above all, he pulls the others along, getting them to do, or at least try to do, what he does."

Arsenal will be banking big on gifted winger Bukayo Saka when they host Atletico Madrid in the Champions League semifinal second leg on Tuesday. AFP

Inter win 21st Serie A title

Inter Milan won their third Serie A title in six seasons on Sunday thanks to a comfortable 2-0 win over Parma that ignited the celebrations at a jubilant San Siro and across the city, reports AP from Milan.

Marcus Thuram's side-footed finish just before half-time set Inter on their way before Henrikh Mkhitaryan's second-half goal put the Scudetto beyond doubt.

With three matches left, Inter have a 12-point lead over reigning champions Napoli and 15 more points than third-placed AC Milan.

Forest end Chelsea's CL dreams

LONDON, AP: Chelsea slumped to a sixth straight Premier League defeat and saw its Champions League qualification hopes virtually disappear after losing to Nottingham Forest 3-1 on Monday.

Taiwo Awoniyi scored two either side of earning a penalty converted by fellow striker Igor Jesus, inspiring a heavily rotated Forest to the brink of safety. Forest was six points above the relegation zone with three rounds left.

Joao Pedro's overhead kick in second-half stoppage time ended Chelsea's scoreless run in the league stretching back almost two months.

Result: Chelsea: 1 (Joao Pedro 90+3rd) lt to Nottingham Forest: 3 (Taiwo Awoniyi 2nd, 52nd, Igor Jesus 15th pen).

Real stretch Barca's wait

Vinicius Junior scored two second-half goals and Real Madrid beat Espanyol 2-0 to keep Barcelona from clinching their second straight Spanish league title, reports AP from Madrid.

Barcelona beat Osasuna 2-1 on Saturday to open a 14-point gap over Madrid entering Sunday's matches. Anything but a win by Madrid against Barcelona's city rival would have allowed the Catalan club to celebrate their 29th league title this weekend.

Results: Espanyol: 0 lt to Real Madrid: 2 (Vinicius Junior 55th, 66th); Celta Vigo: 3 (Hugo Alvarez 14th, Iago Aspas 30th, Borja Iglesias 85th) bt Elche: 1 (Andre Silva 82nd P); Real Betis: 3 (Cucho 22nd, 58th, Ezzalzouli 45th) bt Real Oviedo: 0; Getafe: 0 lt to Rayo Vallecano: 2 (Sergio Camello 38th, Randy Nteka 73rd).

BFC, OFC battle ends in a draw

Sanchez penalty gives Blues a much-needed point

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru FC's clash against Odisha FC was a tale of territorial dominance and in the end the high-octane encounter ended in a 1-1 stalemate.

Forced to adapt due to injuries to Ashique Kuruniyan and Nikhil Poojary, head coach Pep Munoz handed starts to Sivasakthi Narayanan and Ricky Meetei, and the reshuffled Blues immediately took control.

Moments later, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu proved why he remains indispensable, diving full-stretch to keep out a thunderous near-post strike from Thoiba. Despite Gurpreet's heroics, which included a sharp save from a Rahim Ali long-range effort, a momentary lapse in concentration proved costly.

In the 34th minute, an errant throw-in from Naorem Roshan Singh resulted in a turnover that allowed Rahim Ali to pounce and fire Odisha into a lead that ran contrary to the early run of play.

Braian Sanchez. X

The complexion of the game shifted again at the interval with the introduction of Soham Varshneya for Sunil Chhetri. The substitution paid immediate dividends; Soham's energetic burst into the box drew a foul within minutes of the restart, earning a penalty that Braian Sanchez calmly converted to restore parity.

Result: Odisha FC: 1 (Rahim Ali 34th) drew with Bengaluru FC: 1 (Braian Sanchez 48th pen).

Apaar is India's youngest active IM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Apaar Saxena **(in pic)** became the youngest active International Master (IM), aged 14, in India on Sunday, capping a remarkable five-week run across European tournaments.

He secured his first IM norm at the IM Renome 2 in Bosnia on March 30, winning the event with 7/9. A week later, he added a second norm at the San Vicente Open in Spain, again scoring 7/9, finishing 12th in a field of over 520 players from 54 countries. Despite a GM-norm level performance, he fell short of that mark due to opposition criteria.

At the Menorca Open, Saxena registered a 2404 performance rating and gained 44 rating points before a final-round forfeit halted his push for another norm.

He clinched the title at IM Putnik 114 in Serbia with 7/9, touching a live rating of 2450. His rise began at the 2025 Chess Slovak Open, where he defeated GM Zigurds Lanka.

Emon double ton powers City Cricketers to 509-run win

BENGALURU, DHNS

Emon Bhanji's 113-ball 235 took City Cricketers to a mammoth total of 562/4 in 50 overs in a 509-run victory over SJ Polytechnic in the KSCA YS Ramasawmy Memorial Trophy for IV & V division clubs here.

In response, SJ Polytechnic were 53 all out as Niranjan Gupta took 5/5 in the annihilation.

Brief scores: City Cricketers (2): 562/4 in 50 overs (Emon Bhanj 235, Binod Kumar BK 101, Diganth U 34, Harshal SM 45 n.o., Niranjan Gupta 29, Pradeep Tamrakar 51 n.o., Darshan Kumresh 2-86) bt SJ Polytechnic: 53 all out in 15.1 overs (Niranjan Gupta 5-5, Abhishek N 2-11, B Abhay 2-17] by 509 runs.
Vasanthanagar Cricketers: 184 all out in 37 overs (Mihran Abdul Rehman 46, Dhyaan Aithal 29; Adithya Kashyap R 2-29, Akshay MR 3-30, Ayush N 3-4) bt Malleswaram: 168 all out in 39.4 overs (Akshay MR 60; Mihran Abdul Rehman 3-35, Dhyaan Aithal 3-42, Basavaraj BS 2-30).
Malleswaram United: 308/9 in 50 overs (Dhyan Suvarna 79, Pavan Prasad V 42, Rahul B 41, Punith HA 39, Dheemanth KM 36; Yatish Kumar BR 2-62, Zainul Abideen 2-58, Harshith Raj G 2-56, Nuthan B 2-43) bt Jaidur Cricketers: 219 all out in 34.4 overs (Abhay Singh P 39, Sapthagiri MS 56, Zainul Abideen 42; Shishir 2-30, Punith HA 3-30, Ashitharya 2-28, Yashwanth Patel 2-29).
Jayanagar Colts: 140/9 in 37 overs (Pavan Kalyan BS 34, Nagesh V Rao 34, Gautham Bhat GS 30; G Murali Krishna 3-17, Abhishek 3-22, Rizwanullah 2-5) lt to Huttons: 142/5 in 21.1 overs (Aayat Rahim Khan 50, G Murali Krishna 60; Nagesh V Rao 3-28).
Young Cricketers: 309 all out in 46.3 overs (Kashish CH 44, Lingaraj 59, Karmanye Puri 44, Kishore V 50, Nandagokul S 46; Ajay 3-59, Kishore KR 2-55, Trivikram Anand S 2-56, Likith Rama P 2-46) bt Friends CC: 184 all out in 43.2 overs (Chandan Naik G 39, Likith Rama P 29, Ajay 28; Santhosh Kumar SM 2-11, Akash Sharma U 3-41, Aayush Chourasia 2-44, Kishore V 2-25).
Canarese: 220 all out in 42.5 overs (Sameer Godhi 26, Amey 29, Cheran Tej Raju C 34, Mohammed Talha Tanveer 31, Rohith BH 38 n.o.; Bodugu Dileep Kumar 2-36, Goladari Medha Venkat 2-32, Trupathi 4-48) bt Gandhinagar Cricketers: 194 all out in 46.1 overs (Sai Karthik 28, Bodugu Dileep Kumar 25, Goladari Medha Venkat 25; Harshavardhan Ds 2-32, Pranjal Jain 2-32).

Seshadripuram College: 148 all out in 19.2 overs (Manish L 89; Anush Mehta Jain 2-41, Manvir Agasthya 5-26, Adithya Suresh 2-62) lt to Eleven Brothers, Magadi: 149/3 in 23 overs (Bryan Thomas 61, Sparsh Sankesara 27 n.o.).
Lions CC: 197/9 in 50 overs (Chandrakanth A 38, Abhinav Kulkarni 53; Rohith SM 2-29, Keerthan JR 2-32, Muzakkir Sharief 2-24) bt Friends CC, Kolar: 157 all out in 33 overs (Mahendra 45, Muzakkir Sharief 28 n.o.; Venkat Purushotham 2-37, Sarveet Dubey 3-39, Manoj AV 2-25).
Mathikere: 184 all out in 44.5 overs (Kushal R Katara 29, Akhieera Allan W 27, Prabhanjana Bagal 43, Mokshith M Bagrecha 31 n.o., Ranjith Kumar 3-23, Mohammad Asif Ansari M 4-37, Samvit Shastri 2-25) lt to Jaihind: 185/6 in 43.4 overs (Namish Kar 44, Gnanesh Subramani 39 n.o., Vinoth Kumar 32, Kushal R Katara 2-28).
Sparklers: 346/8 in 50 overs (Koushik AN 111, Aadyot Pandey 119, Mohammed Shamsheer 34; Srivatsa Ranganatha 2-22, Pavan KR 5-56) bt Young Challenging, Chintamani: 155 all out in 22.4 overs (Manoj Kumar NP 61, Kishan BS 25, Koushik AN 2-34, Eyann Grover 3-7, Deepak Gowda 2-34).
Sirurpark: 312 all out in 48.5 overs (Madhava 74, Kushal Raja 87, Sanjay Gorur 73; Naren Raju Moka 4-50, Deepak V 3-46) bt YMCA (2): 255 all out in 41.5 overs (Deepak V 38, Hitesh BV 85, Royston 32, Sagar G 3-34).
Government Science College: 128 all out in 40.1 overs (Venu BA 25; Puneeth 2-17, Vishal Reddy SV 2-24, Purushothama TN 2-26, Dhruva A B 4-40) lt to Southern Cricketers: 129/0 in 15.4 overs (Arvind Chavan 88 n.o., Neeraj Kunal Muruganati 35 n.o.).
Diamond CC: 273/8 in 50 overs (Mahadev Prasad MD 134, Zameer Hussain 88; Ranjodh Raghavan 2-41, Angad Saini 2-54) bt Young Pioneer: 222 all out in 48.1 overs (Akash Gowda M 30, Suchith Shankar 33, Angad Saini 66; Samarth Patil 2-45, Zameer Hussain 3-39, Kaushik Neergunda 3-47).
National United: 255/8 in 50 overs (Manjunath 63, Yeshwanth 26, Dheeraj N 30 n.o., Janardhan R 25 n.o.; Chethan J 2-35, Sreecharan Bandappa 4-35) bt Kengeri Cricketers: 87 all out in 24 overs (Rohan V Kamble 27; Janardhan R 2-28, Manjunath 3-15, Aries KA 2-15, Prasanna G 3-6).
Anglo Youth: 128 all out in 36.3 overs (Dhruv S Akki 28, Basava Chetan B 40; Eric Rupreo 3-30, Milan Dhami 2-24) lt to Merchants CC (2): 132/4 in 12.4 overs (Chirag Agarwal 66, Gowtham NJ 44).
Bangalore United (2): 123 all out in 36.2 overs (Rishikesh 26; Sriee Krish RA 2-18, Karan Umesh 3-23, Hariharan Ganesh Ramani 2-19) lt to Maharana: 124/2 in 14.5 overs (Siddharth TNV 27, Shrikara M 38 n.o., Yash Jayantilal Diwani 33).

Top tennis players slam French Open prize money

PARIS, AP: A group of leading players including Jannik Sinner, Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff have expressed "their deep disappointment" at the level of prize money at Roland Garros amid a lingering dispute with Grand Slam tournament organisers.

The clay-court Grand Slam event starts later this month in western Paris. The players said they have other demands that have not been addressed by officials, including better representation, health and pensions.

The players' call came after French Open organisers announced last month the Roland Garros prize money has increased by about 10% for an overall pot of 61.7 million euros ($72.1 million), with the total amount up 5.3 million euros from last year.

"Players' share of Roland Garros tournament revenue has declined from 15.5% in 2024 to 14.9% projected in 2026," the group of players responded in a statement on Monday.

Play begins on May 24 at Roland Garros. men's and women's singles champions each receive 2.8 million euros and the runners-up 1.4 million euros. Semifinalists earn 750,000 euros and first round losers get 87,000 euros.

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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯ್ಯಾ/ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ/2026–27/219 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.05.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) KW-2, & 3 (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ:**(1) ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಶಿರವಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT26515 (SC Bidder Only) (2) ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಉಕ್ಕಿನಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. & ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಚಾಮನಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT26493 (CAT-II (A) Bidders Only) (3) ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಗಂಗನಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. & ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ದರಿಯಾಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26521CAT-II (A) Bidders Only) (4)ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮದ್ದರಕಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. & ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೋಸಕೇರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT26500 Other (5) ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ನಾಗನಟಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ಕಂಪೌಂಡಗೋಡೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. & ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೋತಪೇಠ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT26518 Other (6) ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಗುಂಡಾಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. & ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೊಸಕೇರಾ–ವನದುರ್ಗಾ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಹೊಸಕೇರಾ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸಿದ್ದುಗೌಂಡಿ ಮನೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26522 Other (7) ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸಗರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26522 Other 2)**ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:**2025–26ನೇ ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ. ಯೋಜನೆ 3) **ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 23.74 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ 4) **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು 5) **ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 06.05.2026 ರಿಂದ 16.05.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 6) **ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) 7) **ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 16.05.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 8) **ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್(ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 3):**18.05.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 9:00 ನಂತರ 9) **ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್(ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 2):** 18.05.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 9.00 ನಂತರ 10) **ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್(ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 3):** 22.05.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ 11) **ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. 12) **ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ :– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

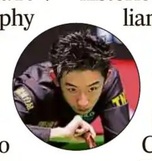
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/48/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ&ಎ/2026–27

Yize seizes lead

SHEFFIELD (UK), AFP

China's Wu Yize **(in pic)** is on track to win the World Snooker Championship after building a 10-7 lead against Shaun Murphy in the final on Sunday.



The 22-year-old's superb long potting and composed break-building ensured he would go into Monday's deciding sessions in pole position to lift the trophy for the first time.

Wu's clearance of 91 in the last frame of Sunday's action kept 2005 winner Murphy at bay after he threatened to close the gap to one frame.

Wu is aiming to become the second Chinese player to win the title at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre after Zhao Xintong's historic victory over Mark Williams in last year's final.

He needs to win eight more frames to secure the silverware in his maiden World Championship final.

The drama on the baize was mirrored in the arena with a female spectator thrown out by security officials after shouting out and apparently trying to invade the stage.

Vijaya CC to face Bangalore Occasionals in title clash

BENGALURU, DHNS: Vijaya Cricket Club and Bangalore Occasionals will lock horns in the final of the KSCA G Kasturirangan Memorial Trophy after scoring hard-fought wins in their respective semifinals here at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

LOCAL CRICKET

While Vijaya CC, riding on Samit Dravid's 46 and 4/10 from Dhruv Prabhakar, defeated Vultures Cricket Club by seven runs in the first semifinal, Bangalore Occasionals beat Swastic Union Cricket Club (1) by five wickets in the second last-four battle.

Brief scores (semifinals): Vijaya Cricket Club: 159/8 in 20 overs (Samit Dravid 46; Aaditya Nair 3-22, Shikhar Shetty 2-29, Dhanush Gowda 2-34) bt Vultures Cricket Club: 152/8 in 20 overs (Shrijith KL 34, Karthikeya KP 67 n.o.; Dhruv Prabhakar 4-10).
Swastic Union Cricket Club (1): 183/9 in 20 overs (A Rohan Patil 55; Shreesha S Achar 2-24, Naman GD 2-18) lt to Bangalore Occasionals: 185/5 in 19.2 overs (Wahid Faizan Khan 67, Rajvir Wadhwa 42 n.o.; Paras Gurbax Arya 2-31, Nischith N Rao 2-40).

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"The beauty about how we've been playing is that, it's not one individual performing every single day. There are different players stepping up on different days.

JASON HOLDER
GT ALL-ROUNDER

Rohit, Ryan run riot in MI win

Hosts' openers make light work of Lucknow's impressive total

MUMBAI, PTI

Rohit Sharma (84) made a gratifying return from an injury-enforced layoff and Ryan Rickelton (83) gave another account of his hitting prowess as Mumbai Indians crushed Lucknow Super Giants by six wickets in their Indian Premier League match here on Monday.

Openers Rohit and Rickelton put on their third century partnership in the IPL -- this time 143 runs -- and laid the foundation for the much-needed win. MI overhauled LSG's 228/5 with 229/4 in 18.4 overs.

After Nicholas Pooran made the most of some ordinary bowling from MI with a 21-ball 63, Rohit and Rickelton made merry during their 65-ball stand.

The former Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit had missed five matches due to a hamstring injury which he sustained while batting against Royal Challengers Bengaluru here on April 12.

But the 39-year-old showed no discomfort while clobbering seven sixes and six fours during his 44-ball knock, and Rickelton continued his rich vein of form with commanding stroke play around the park.

But Rickelton fell to Mohsin Khan in the 11th over, playing one straight to cover after a two towering sixes previously.

Rohit looked set for his third IPL ton but he top-edged impact sub Manimaran Siddharth (2/47) to be caught at short fine leg in the 14th over.

Tilak Varma (11) failed to make a dent, while MI stand-in skipper Suryakumar Yadav (12) was once again caught near the ropes, instilling some nerves in the hosts.

But Naman Dhir (23 not out) and Will Jacks (10 not out) completed the task.

In the Power Play, MI weren't off to a flier but 50 odd runs came off in first five overs. The hosts found the launchpad in the sixth when Avesh Khan was pulverised for 21 runs by Rohit.

The LSG seamer constantly missed his lengths and Rohit followed a couple of fours with as many sixes.

Rickelton, who began with a six off Mohsin over deep square leg, lit up the chase with compelling shot-making.

Rohit Sharma's (left) 44-ball 84 and Ryan Rickelton's 32-ball 83 powered Mumbai Indians to a comfortable six-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Monday. PTI

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS: Mitchell Marsh c Dhir b Bosch 44, Josh Inglis c Yadav b Ghazanfar 13, Nicholas Pooran c Rickelton b Bosch 63, Rishabh Pant c Rickelton b Jacks 15, Aiden Markram (not out) 31, Akshat Raghuwanshi c&b Raghu 11, Himmat Singh (not out) 40. Extras (NB-4, W-7) 11.

TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 20 overs) 228.

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-123, 3-125, 4-148, 5-160.

Bowling: Deepak Chahar 4-0-43-0, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-45-0, AM Ghazanfar 4-0-50-1, Will Jacks 2-0-34-1, Corbin Bosch 2-0-20-2, Raghu Sharma 4-0-36-1.

MUMBAI INDIANS: Ryan Rickelton c Inglis b Mohsin 83, Rohit Sharma c Shami b Siddharth 84, Tilak Varma c Markram b Siddharth 11, Suryakumar Yadav c Pooran b Shami 12, Naman Dhir (not out) 23, Will Jacks (not out) 10. Extras (LB-2, W-4) 6. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 18.4 overs) 229.**

Fall of wickets: 1-143, 2-177, 3-189, 4-213. **Bowling:** Mohammed Shami 4-0-53-1, Mohsin Khan 4-0-47-1, Prince Yadav 3-0-24-0, Avesh Khan 3.4-0-56-0, Manimaran Siddharth 4-0-47-2.

Result: MI won by 6 wkts.

PoM: Ryan Rickelton.

Injured Salt returns home for scans

NEW DELHI, PTI: Royal Challengers Bengaluru opener Phil Salt has returned to England for scans on a finger injury sustained last month.

The injury has kept Salt out of RCB's last three matches, with compatriot Jacob Bethell stepping in at the top of the order.

Phil Salt

The 29-year-old is reported to have "damaged a finger on his left hand" while diving to save a boundary at deep backward square leg during RCB's defeat to Delhi Capitals at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on April 18.

"Salt, who is centrally contracted by the ECB, has since returned home at the request of England's management and has undergone scans on his finger," ESPNCricinfo reported.

According to the report, both RCB and Salt are hopeful of a speedy recovery and the opener can return to India later this month.

Salt had enjoyed a strong start to the season, amassing 202 runs in six innings at an impressive strike rate of 168.33.

Royal Challengers are currently second on the points table behind Punjab Kings. They take on Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on Thursday next.

DC seek end to home horror run

CSK eye another win to stay alive in playoffs race

LIVE 7:30 PM

NEW DELHI, PTI

Delhi Capitals will need to stop oscillating between sublime and suicidal to overcome their streak of three painful losses at home when they take on an equally desperate Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Both sides are on eight points from nine games and with five matches remaining, there is no room left for error.

The Capitals put up a clinical batting performance in Jaipur on Friday night to get a welcome win after a hat-trick of defeats. Two of those losses came at home causing immense hurt in the dressing room as Punjab Kings chased down a record 265 before Royal Challengers Bengaluru exposed their fragile batting against a potent pace attack.

The defeats at Kotla also includes a harrowing one-run loss to Gujarat Titans, a game that DC should have definitely won.

The biggest positives going for DC heading into the CSK game is opener Pathum Nissanka finding his range alongside the ever consistent KL Rahul while speedster Mitchell Starc providing the much-needed bite to the bowling attack.

Kuldeep Yadav would be itching to make amends after being smashed for three sixes in his final over in Jaipur. He has also been rather expensive thus far in the tournament, leaking runs at 10.26 runs per over while taking only seven wickets in nine games.

Middle and death overs specialist T Nataran too has not compensated for his high economy rate, tallying five wickets in nine games.

Despite an up and down run, captain Axar Patel has managed to remain calm and pragmatic.

DC bowling coach Munaf Patel said Lungi Ngidi is set to return to action after recovering from the head injury.

Ahead of their 10th game of the season, CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan confirmed that MS Dhoni has not yet regained full fitness, ruling him out of the game at Kotla.

Like DC, CSK too are walking on a tightrope and if they slip on Tuesday night, it would ensure another premature exit from the tournament.

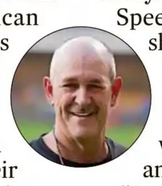
Delhi Capitals opener Pathum Nissanka will be eyeing a second consecutive fifty when they take on Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday. AFP

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	9	6	2	1	13	0.855
Royal Challengers	9	6	3	0	12	1.420
Sunrisers Hyderabad	10	6	4	0	12	0.644
Rajasthan Royals	10	6	4	0	12	0.510
Gujarat Titans	10	6	4	0	12	-0.147
Chennai Super Kings	9	4	5	0	8	0.005
Delhi Capitals	9	4	5	0	8	-0.895
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	5	1	7	-0.539
Mumbai Indians	10	3	7	0	6	-0.649
Lucknow Super Giants	9	2	7	0	4	-1.076

Challengers give head physio Speechly a special farewell

BENGALURU, DHNS: "All I can say is that I still feel a part of RCB as I always have," Evan Speechly **(in pic)** , former Head Physio of Royal Challengers Bengaluru, said with a smile, during his farewell.



The South African Speechly, who was with RCB since 2008, called time on his storied 18-year career with the franchise in 2025, following their first-ever IPL coronation.

Speechly, who is highly regarded for his work in sports medicine, was a part of South Africa's football and rugby sides.

"I must say when I walked into the hotel yesterday, it felt like I was coming home. As Virat mentioned, he, Basu, and I, have been here for a long time. Everybody in world cricket would love to spend at least one season here (RCB). Thank you everybody, very much," Speechly said in a video shared by RCB on X.

Virat Kohli, who has also been with RCB since 2008, had words of appreciation and gratitude.

"Apart from your hard-work and professionalism as Mo (Bobat) mentioned, the one thing that will stand out is your kindness, care and your integrity while you worked with us, that is something I will always carry with me," Kohli said.

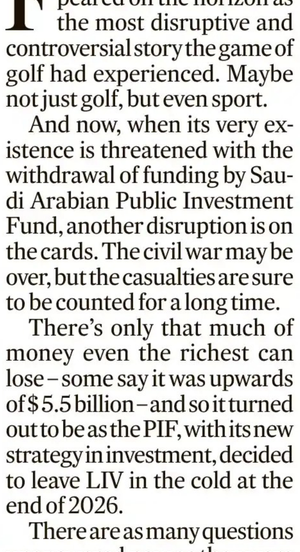
'Update on MSD above my pay grade'

NEW DELHI, PTI

Chennai Super Kings bowling coach Eric Simons on Monday said that MS Dhoni has not travelled for the away game against Delhi Capitals here. However, he is steadily improving after not playing a game this season due to a calf injury.

More than half the season is done with Chennai Super Kings set to play their 10th game in what has been an underwhelming campaign. Like every season since his international retirement, there is immense speculation over the future of the 44-year-old Indian great in the IPL.

In the pre-match interaction, it was a hardly a surprise that the first question was on Dhoni, who has been batting in the nets of late.



Eric Simons. X

"Update on MS Dhoni is way above my pay grade. He's not with us (in Delhi), but steadily improving. He'll be ready when he's ready, and he knows when he's ready to play," that was all Simons had to say on the team icon.

Talking about the performance of the bowlers, he was all praise for Anshul Kamboj, who has impressed in all phase of the game and is the joint highest wicket-taker with 17 scalps.

"Anshul went away. Anshul you see today is not this season, he started last year. The things that we worked on, he went into the domestic season and worked on different angles of approach to the crease to be more accurate with his yorkers in particular.

"We've introduced round the wicket, which is no secret now.

"There's a lot of nuances to what we're doing around the wicket that make him particularly effective. He's picked up wickets and been able to restrict the run rate as well. But I think what it really boils down to is his professionalism, the way that he trains."

"If you stood next to me and watched the way that he trains, the way that he understands what he's going to do, the simplicity I spoke about, the clarity, I think in the modern game a bowler needs to be clear about what he wants to do.

"He's very clear about his tactics, and he's very clear about what his field setting is. There's no grey area for him," added Simons.

With four wins from nine matches, CSK find themselves in a must-win situation for the remainder of the five league matches.

China, South Korea reign supreme

COPENHAGEN, AFP: World number one and Olympic champion An Se-young "started the fire" as South Korea toppled China to win badminton's prestigious Uber Cup women's world team title.

China, meanwhile, beat France to lift the Thomas Cup, the men's crown, also in the Danish city of Horsens.

South Korea won the Uber Cup for a third time with a 3-1 victory over title-holders China late on Sunday.

Top-ranked An put the Koreans on their way, dismantling world number two Wang Zhiyi 21-10, 21-13.

China levelled in the first doubles rubber through Tan Ning and Liu Shengshu, before Kim Ga-eun stunned Chen Yufei 21-19, 21-15 to put South Korea within sight of glory.

Baek Ha-na and Kim Hye-jeong fought back to defeat Jia Yifan and Zhang Shuxian 16-21, 21-10, 21-13 to seal the triumph.

"An started the fire going," said team captain Lee So-hee, who reserved special praise for Kim Ga-eun following her surprise victory over Tokyo Olympic champion Chen.

"Ga-eun was in a tough match, but she did it, I'm very proud of her."

Mercedes' prodigy Antonelli sweeps to hat-trick in Miami

MIAMI, REUTERS: Italian teenage prodigy Kimi Antonelli won the Miami Grand Prix for Mercedes on Sunday and wrote his name in the Formula One record books with his third victory in a row from pole position.

The youngest driver ever to lead the championship, at 19 years old, also became the first to take his first three career wins from the top slot on the grid and also the first in five editions of the race to win in Miami from the front row.

"This is just the beginning, the road is still long," he said after beating McLaren's world champion Lando Norris by 3.2 seconds at the Hard Rock Stadium to stretch his lead to 20 points after four rounds -- all won by Mercedes.

"We are working super hard and the team is doing an incredible job."

Norris, winner of the Saturday sprint, had a three-second lead at one point but lost out after the pitstops when Antonelli came in first for a change of tyres and then got ahead of the Briton who pitted one lap later.

"How did we not win this? We should have won guys," Norris said over the team radio after the chequered flag.

"We just got undercut -- no excuses other than that. We got undercut, we should have boxed (pitted) first," he explained later.

"Hats off to Merc and Kimi, they drove a good race. I'm gutted to miss out on a win here in Miami, I think it was possible today. But not the pace to get past him in the end, so we take it on the chin."

Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli celebrates after winning the Miami GP on Sunday. AFP

Has Saudi-funded tour outLIVed its utility?

V KRISHNASWAMY

Four years ago LIV appeared on the horizon as the most disruptive and controversial story the game of golf had experienced. Maybe not just golf, but even sport.

And now, when its very existence is threatened with the withdrawal of funding by Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund, another disruption is on the cards. The civil war may be over, but the casualties are sure to be counted for a long time.

There's only that much of money even the richest can lose – some say it was upwards of $5.5 billion – and so it turned out to be as the PIF, with its new strategy in investment, decided to leave LIV in the cold at the end of 2026.

There are as many questions unanswered now as they were in the beginning and there is still a little over a month to go for the fourth anniversary of the maiden LIV event held at the Centurion Club in Hertfordshire, England, back in June 2022, which was first conceived in 2021 as a breakaway professional golf league to challenge the dominance of the PGA Tour and modernise the sport.

LIV may still survive assuming they find funder/s to replace the 'bottomless' pits of money that Saudi Arabia's PIF seemed to possess when they promised a 'new brand' of golf. But the chances of finding billions of the kind that the PIF was once willing to spend are miniscule.

Indian golf's poster boy, Anirban Lahiri, who had played on PGA circuit for years, had moved to Saudi-backed LIV golf.

USA TODAY FILE PHOTO

When LIV first made its appearance, it raised not only the prize purses to unheard of sums but also raised the shackles of the purists in the game by making them cringe with a new bunch of 'rules' – a shotgun start, 54 holes (as in the Roman numeral "LIV") and no cut.

"Nah, that's not pro golf," said many even as several others embraced it as 'new face of golf'.

But it brought in an animosity, the likes of which had never been seen before in professional golf; maybe sport itself. The PGA Tour suspended players who joined LIV while LIV players accused the PGA Tour of monopolistic practices. Antitrust lawsuits were filed, but later dropped.

The divide extended to fans, sponsors and governing bodies. LIV golf struggled for acceptance; they lacked World ranking points, faced criticism of "sportswashing", and suggestions that Saudi Arabia was using sport to improve its global image. The PGA Tour was accused of not giving the players their due or growing the game and not taking it to newer places and much else.

The disruption came with the use of big-time money. Supported by billions from the PIF, LIV offered enormous guaranteed deals, many of which exceeded $100 million, to lure top players like Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka. Jon Rahm and Bryson DeChambeau too defected from the PGA Tour. There were rumours of deals going to $300m and Tiger Woods was rumoured to have been offered in the neighbourhood of a billion dollars. He turned it down.

Bengaluru's own Anirban Lahiri, the poster boy of Indian golf, was lured away. He was the closest India had to a 'Major' star with many years of play on the PGA Tour and the global stage.

It was said that India was a future venue LIV had visualised and there was no one better than Lahiri, accompanied by legendary names like Bryson De Chambeau, Jon Rahm and Dustin Johnson, to sell it to the golf fans in India. Alas, it may never happen now.

For three years and more LIV golfers played for massive amounts of money, but got no recognition in the form of Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) points, which determines the entry into the biggest of events, including the Majors.

Even as LIV struggled for legitimacy, the PGA Tour players, once overlooked, gained massively. The prize purses on the PGA Tour increased hugely; the PGA Tour restructured events and even got own investments in the form of a multi-billion-dollar deal with private investors.

In June 2023 there was a 'stunning' announcement of a possible resolution and an agreement between LIV, the PGA Tour, and the DP World Tour. It did not materialise.

Meanwhile, a bunch of some other LIV players made 'peace' with DP World (the erstwhile European Tour) by paying 'fines' and agreeing to other conditions. They could be back on DP World Tour and in time they could get to the PGA Tour, which now boasts of a slew of LIV-like $20m events.

LIV refuses to admit it is finished. The 2026 season is continuing as planned and PIF is still funding it till end of 2026. But what next?

The Asian Tour which propped up LIV/ PIF for OWGR were in turn were promised ten $2m International Series events each year for 10 years. There was talk of more funding. What happens to that?

If PIF stops funding LIV, is it also the end of the road for International Series? Will Asian Tour be back to $400,000 and $500,000 events like the olden days.

The stars will find a home in either the PGA Tour or the DP World Tour, but what happens to the Asian Tour players, whose Tour offered a sanctuary to LIV? Add to them, the middle and lower rung players and young stars from other Tours.

Writer is a Delhi-based senior sports journalist.

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